



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Government

No. 238 /Gov
Vientiane Capital, 11 August 2017

DECREE ON ASSOCIATIONS

- Pursuant to the Constitution of Lao PDR (amended version) No 63/NA, dated 08 December 2015;
- Pursuant to the Law on Government (amended version) No 04/NA, dated 08 November 2016;
- Based on the request letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs No. 207/MoHA, dated 04 August 2017

The Government of Lao PDR decrees that:

Chapter 1 General Provisions

Article 1: Purpose

This Decree determines the principles, regulations and measures for the establishment, operations and management of associations to be used as basic references for the establishment of associations of Lao citizens, relevant State's organizations, for the management, monitoring, inspections and promotion of associations to operate in compliance with the laws of Lao PDR, to contribute to promoting national unity, alleviating people's poverty, assistance to the society and country's socio-economic development.

Article 2: Association

1. Associations that are established and operate under this Decree refer to civil society organizations established on a voluntary basis, have regular operation, non-profit intention, provide mutual assistance, protect the legitimate rights and interests of the associations, members of associations or communities, and contribute to country's socio-economic development.
2. Associations can bear different names: federal association, confederation, clubs or other names, hereby called 'Associations' which are membership-based civil society organizations (except for profitable incorporated business groups)

Article 3: Definitions

Terms used in this Decree shall have the following meanings:

1. **Non-profit Intention** refers to assets and revenues generated from the association's activities after deduction of overhead costs with the remaining assets not being shared but further used in line with the purpose of the association's charter
2. **Federal Association or Federation** refers to the collectives of membership-based civil society organizations that are officially established and operate in the same area or sector, voluntarily and jointly agree to propose to the relevant government agency to establish the federation;
3. **Club** refers to a civil society organization that gathers members who are individuals or entities that has been officially established, exercises professional activities or operate in the same area and sector on a voluntary basis and jointly agree to propose to the relevant government agency to establish a club;
4. **Community** refers to all citizens living in a defined area and having similar characteristics and relations and relying on each other;
5. **Voluntarism** refers to joining a civil society organization based on good will, aspiration of each member without being coerced
6. **Association with entity status** refers to an officially established association that conducts regular operations, has a charter, an office, a seal and proper bank account in accordance with the laws and regulations;
7. **Associations with non-entity status** refers to an association established by individuals on a voluntary basis or organizations that do not meet all eligibility criteria as prescribed in Article 7 of this Decree;
8. **Capital** refers to funds and/or assets
9. **Asset** refers to buildings, compounds, lands, vehicles, equipment and materials obtained from purchases, donations and contribution by individuals, entities, domestic and foreign organizations or given by the Government;
10. **Fund donation** refers to the dedication, transfer of funds or assets of individuals, entities, organizations to the association in compliance with the laws and regulations;
11. **Fund mobilization** refers to organizing meetings or specific events or notification or letters requesting individuals, entities, organizations to make donations, provide financial support or assets to the associations;
12. **Independent audit organizations** refer to external audit organizations that operate audit businesses or independent auditors who are registered as independent auditors with proper enterprise license in accordance with the laws of Lao PDR;
13. **Association registration** refers to the certifying documents, approval on the establishment of the association that the Ministries and ministry-equivalent agencies have properly approved in compliance with this Decree.

Article 4: The Government's policy on associations

The Government applies the following policies to the associations:

1. The Government approves the official establishment of the associations and only the Government's agencies have the right to approve the establishment of the association;
2. The Government encourages the associations to undertake public services, extend assistance to the society and address people's poverty with kindness;

3. The Government approves the mobilizations and acceptance of donations, assets from individuals, entities and domestic and foreign organizations in accordance with the laws, the Government's regulations and the association's charter;
4. The Government approves the interactions, cooperation with international organizations to carry out programs, assistance projects in compliance with the laws, the Government's regulations and the association's charter;
5. The Government provides advice and assistance through the Ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, sectors, and relevant local authorities in order to ensure effective operations of the associations in line with the Party's policies, laws and the Government's regulations;
6. The Government issues legal instruments to be used as references for the association's proper activities.

Article 5: Scope

This Decree is applied specifically to the associations as entity status of Lao citizens that have been officially established under this Decree.

Article 6: Principles governing the establishment and operations of the associations

Associations are established and operate on the basis of the following principles:

1. Voluntarily established, contribute funding to, attend activities of association or resign from the association without constraints or duress;
2. Have clear purposes and objectives;
3. Have regular activities;
4. Be self-managing and accountable for all activities of the associations according to the laws;
4. Be financially self-sufficient;
5. Operate for non-profit activities;
6. Be transparent, opened and equal.

Article 7: Criteria for the establishment of associations

The establishment of an association requires to meet the following criteria:

1. To have clear objectives and clearly defined areas of activities which are not in conflict with the national constitution, laws and fine national, local and ethnic traditions, not to represent any threat to national security, social order and individual's freedom;
2. To have the proposed association's mobilizing committee which consists of at least 3 members appointed by the proposed association's founder and one of the three members of the mobilizing committee shall have certified professional qualifications or work permit relevant the activities of the association;
3. Founders, founding committee, mobilizing committee, board, inspection committee and directors shall be Lao nationals, aged minimum 18 years old and have no criminal record;
4. The name of the proposed association shall not be duplicated with the names of other registered associations that are already established in the same region. The name shall be in Lao, clear, easy to understand, not rude and, if necessary, the name can be translated into foreign languages;

5. The office of the proposed association shall be located in Lao PDR certified by a village authority for its location. The proposed association shall have a property certificate or lease agreement in accordance with the laws;
6. The proposed association shall have its charter in accordance with the form provided by the Government
7. The proposed association shall have a sufficient number of registered members who voluntary join the association, as follows:
 - 7.1 At least twenty-five members for the association operated at the national level;
 - 7.2 At least fifteen members for the association operated at the provincial level, capital city;
 - 7.3 At least ten members for the association operated at district, municipal, village;

For associations that will operated in economic field or in a specific region, sectors, professions or locality, the number of its members shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Chapter 2

Types and Levels of the Associations' Operation

Article 8: Types of the associations

Associations in Lao PDR consist of 3 types as follows:

1. Economic associations;
2. Professional, technical and creative associations;
3. Social welfare and development associations;

Article 9: Economic associations

Economic Associations refer to civil society organizations, the members of which are business units with business registration in production, trade and services in accordance with the laws; and individuals who voluntarily establish the associations as prescribed by laws.

Article 10: Professional, technical and creative associations

Professional, technical and creative associations refer to civil society organizations, the members of which are professionals, specialized in a specific area who voluntarily establish the associations with the view to promoting the professions, technical occupations and creativity.

Article 11: Social welfare and development associations

Social welfare and development associations refer to civil society organizations, the members of which are voluntary, humanitarian and have high devotion of their funds, materials, intellectual, efforts to assist and develop the society, communities, the poor, vulnerable people, people with disabilities, elderly people, and victims of natural disasters or wars.

Article 12: Operational level of the associations

Associations are classified into 3 levels:

1. Associations operated at national level;
2. Associations operated at provincial level, Capital city level;
3. Associations operated at district or municipal or city or village level.

Article 13: Associations operated at national level

Associations operated at national level are associations that are officially established and widely operate throughout the country or a region of the country covering more than two provinces.

Article 14: Associations operated at provincial level, Capital city level

Associations operated at provincial level, Capital city level are associations that are officially established and operate within a specific province or the Capital city.

Article 15: Associations operated at district or municipal or city or village level

Associations operated at district or municipal or city or village level are associations that are officially established and operate within a specific district or city or village only.

Chapter 3

Application procedure for Association Establishment, Registration and Renew Registration of Associations

Article 16: Application procedure for association establishment

The application for the association establishment of individuals or organization shall follow 4 steps:

1. Request to approve the nomination of the association's mobilizing committee;
2. Request to approve for convening the association's inaugural assembly;
3. Request to approve the association's charter and board;
4. Request to register the association.

Article 17: Request to approve the nomination of the association's mobilizing committee

The association's founder shall nominate at least 3 members to be the mobilizing committee and submit the following set of documents to the authorized agency as prescribed in Article 22 for consideration and approval:

1. A request letter on approval of the association's mobilizing committee;
2. A copy of family registration book or identity card of each nominee;
3. Personal data of each nominee signed and certified by their village authority;
4. Resident certificate;
5. Certificate of no criminal record;
6. Certificate of professional qualifications or work experiences in a specific area relevant to the purpose and activities of the association.

Article 18: Request to approve for convening the association's inaugural assembly

1. Set of documents for requesting to approve the association's inaugural assembly

The mobilizing committee shall submit the following documents to the authorized agency as prescribed in Article 22 for consideration:

- 1.1 The request letter to convene the association's inaugural assembly;
- 1.2 Draft charter of the association following the official template;
- 1.3 Association's work plan or actions plan;
- 1.4 List of candidates for membership;
- 1.5 Certificate on the location of the association's office certified by village authority and summary map of the association's office.

2. Proceeding of inaugural assembly

The mobilizing committee shall organize for the inaugural assembly within 90 days from the date the decision on approval to convene the inaugural assembly becomes effective.

The association's inaugural assembly is convened to gather all members of the association in order to attend the association's general assembly with the view to establish the association with the following proceedings:

- 2.1 To present the decision on approval to convene the association's inaugural assembly;
- 2.2 To present draft charter of the association;
- 2.3 To conduct the consultation, election of the board, inspection committee and other positions, as deemed necessary;
- 2.4 To present the work plan or action plan of the association;
- 2.5 To present the assembly's resolutions on association establishment.

Once the assembly elects the board's members, the mobilizing committee will be cancelled automatically.

In case the mobilizing committee cannot convene the inaugural assembly within 90 days, the mobilizing committee shall request the authorized agency for an extension with written justifications for further consideration.

Article 19: Request to approve the association's charter and board

Within 30 days after the end of the inaugural assembly, the board of the association shall submit all documents to the authorized agency to approve the establishment as prescribed in Article 22 to consider and approve the association's charter and board. The association shall submit the following documents:

1. The request letter on approval of association's charter and board;
2. The minutes of the meeting discussed on the charter, election of board and inspection committee;
3. Resolutions of the inaugural assembly;
4. The draft charter of association that was presented at the inaugural assembly;
5. Registration list of members who attended the assembly;
6. The most update member list of association;
7. Personal data of board's members, resident certificates, certificates of no criminal record, copies of identification cards or family registration books (in case the elected members are not member of the mobilizing committee and has not been inspected and certified by the Ministry of Public Security);

8. The documents about the location of the association's office certified by village authority where it is located and a summary map of the office (in case of changes).

Article 20: Association's registration

Within 7 days after the charter and board of the association were approved by the relevant authorized agency, the association shall apply for registration with the Ministry of Home Affairs with the following documents:

1. The request letter for registration;
2. The approved association's charter;
3. The decisions on approval of the association's charter and board.

The association's registration is valid for one year and can be renewed.

Article 21: Renewal of the association's registration

For the renewal of the registration, the following documents shall be submitted:

1. The request letter for registration renewal;
2. The comments from the authorized ministry, agency that approved the establishment;
3. The annual report on association's operation;
4. The approved charter of the association (in case of changes);
5. The decisions on approval of the association's charter and board.

Chapter 4

Authorities that have the Right to Approve the Establishment, Registration and Procedure for Approval of the Establishment and Registration

Article 22: Authority that have the right to approve the establishment and registration of associations

For an economic association, the establishment shall be approved by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce based on the comments from ministries, relevant sectors. Subsequently, a request is made to the Ministry of Home affair to register the association.

For a professional, technical and creative association that is related to a specific ministry and ministry-equivalent agency, the establishment shall be approved by the minister of the ministry, head of the agency based on the comments from the relevant ministry, sector. Subsequently, a request is made to the Ministry of Home Affairs to register the association.

For a social welfare and development association or an association with activities in more than two sectors, it shall be approved and registered by the Ministry of Home Affairs based on the comments from the relevant ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies.

The associations can officially operate from the date they are properly registered in accordance with this Decree.

Article 23: Procedures to approve the establishment of associations

The procedures to approve the establishment of an association shall follow 4 steps:

1. To consider and approve the nomination or reject the nomination of the mobilizing committee;
2. To consider and approve or reject the opening of the inaugural assembly;
3. To consider and approve or reject the association's charter and board;
4. To register the association.

Article 24 Consideration to approve the mobilizing committee of the association

The authorized agency that has the right to approve the establishment, shall consider and approve or reject the nomination of the mobilizing committee within 60 days upon receiving all proper set of documents as prescribed in Article 17 of this Decree.

Article 25: Consideration to open the inaugural assembly

After the authorized agency that has the right to approve the establishment, properly receives all documents as prescribed in Article 18 Clause 1 of this Decree, it shall consider and approve or reject the opening of an inaugural assembly within 30 days.

In case the authorized agency receives a request from the mobilizing committee to postpone the inaugural assembly, the authorized agency can allow to postpone the inaugural assembly but it should not exceed 60 days.

Article 26: Consideration to approve the charter and board of the association

After the authorized agency that have the right to approve the establishment, properly receives all documents as prescribed in Article 19 of this Decree, it shall consider to accept or reject the approval of the charter and board of the association within 60 days.

Article 27: Consideration to register and renew the registration of the association

When the Ministry of Home Affairs properly receives the request for registration as prescribed in Articles 20 and 21 of this Decree, it shall consider to register or renew registration of the association within 15 days.

Chapter 5**Status, Roles, Rights, Duties and Prohibition of Associations****Article 28: Status and roles of associations**

An association is a civil society organization that play the role in educating and enhancing national solidarity, providing mutual assistance amongst members and assist the society in compliance with laws and government's regulations; to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the association, members of the association or communities; to contribute to the national development and poverty reduction.

Article 29: Rights and duties of associations

An association shall have the following rights and duties:

1. To properly operate in accordance with the Party's policies, socio-economic development plans, laws, the government's regulations and the association's charter;
2. To coordinate with line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, department at provincial level, capital city, offices at district, municipal, city level that are in relation with areas and sectors in which the associations are involved in the planning and operate at the local levels;
3. To mobilize and receive support, assistance, donations from individuals, entities, both domestically and internationally, in compliance with the laws and the Government's regulations;
4. To consider accepting new members and dismissing members of the association;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as prescribed in the charter of the association, laws and the government's regulations.

Article 30: Obligations of the associations

An association shall have the following obligations:

1. To provide an annual report to the authorized agency approved the establishment of the association and related government agencies about the progress, performance, revenues-expenditures of the association;
2. To operate in an area, sector that are under the supervision of the government's agencies responsible for the specific area and sector;
3. To mobilize funds or receive donations, assistance from individuals, entities, domestic and foreign organizations in line with the objectives of the association and in compliance with the laws and the government's regulations;
4. To utilize all funds that the association has mobilized in accordance with the objectives, targets of the association;
5. To strictly comply with the laws about accounting, audit and the charter of the association.

Article 31: Prohibitions for associations

An association is prohibited to carry out the following activities:

1. To abuse the right of freedom to establish an association or on behalf of an association to operate in conflict with the Lao Constitution, laws and the government's regulations;
2. To support or carry out activities that threaten national security, social order, others' freedom and fine national, local and ethnic traditions;
3. To carry out activities that will cause dissent amongst national, local solidarity, religions and ethnic groups;
4. To destroy national, collective and individual interests;
5. To falsify, transfer, rent or lend the approval to establish or register an association in any forms;
6. To borrow or lend money, loan guarantee from the domestic and international financial institutions, entities;
7. To accept foreign experts and volunteers to regularly work in the association.

Chapter 6

Organizational Structure of Association

Article 32: Operational structure of the association

The operational structure of the association comprises: the administrative office which is the permanent operational structure of the association and plays the role in assisting board's members in the management, supervision and facilitation of activities of the association. In addition, there are some technical units established in line with the roles, rights and the charter defined by the association.

Article 33: Staffing structure of the associations

The staffing structure of an association comprises:

1. Board (President, Vice-President and board members);
2. Inspection committee;
3. Directors;
4. Members;
5. Staff in other positions as defined in the charter of the association.

Article 34: Association's board

The board of an association shall be ordinary members elected by other ordinary members at the general assembly and shall be at least 3 people, its term shall not exceed 5 years, its roles are to provide guidance, lead all implementation and make the decision for the fundamental issue of the association.

Article 35: Inspection committee of the association

The inspection committee of the association shall be ordinary members elected by other ordinary members at the inaugural assembly and shall be at least 3 people, its term shall not exceed 5 years. Its roles are to monitor, inspect all activities of the associations and the administration of the board to ensure the compliance with the charter of the association, laws and the government's regulations.

Article 36: Directors of the association

The Director of the association is the assistant to the president of the association who is nominated by the president of the association based on the agreement of the association's board, plays the role in administrating daily activities of the association.

Chapter 7

Members of the Association

Article 37: Members of the associations

The members of the associations comprise:

1. Ordinary members;

2. Support members;
3. Honorary members.

Article 38: Ordinary members

Ordinary members are organizations or Lao citizens who adhere to the charter of the association, voluntarily join the association and meet all standard requirements to become ordinary members of the association in accordance with the charter.

The roles of ordinary members are to consider to approve or cancel the status of ordinary members of the association in accordance with the charter.

Article 39: Support members

Support members are organizations or Lao citizens who adhere to the charter of the association, voluntarily join the association, contribute, interact with the association but do not meet all standard requirements to become ordinary members of the association under the charter or are not willing to become members yet.

A support member has the similar rights and duties as an ordinary member except they do not have the right to vote, to apply for a member of the board, inspection committee, directors and to vote in the decision for the fundamental issue of the association.

The acceptance or dismissal of support members shall follow the charter of the association

Article 40: Honorary members

Honorary members are representatives of organizations or Lao citizens who play the role as eminent, respectful persons and have previously contributed to the association and the association has invited them to be honorary members.

Article 41: Advertisement and expansion of the association's membership

The authorized agency and local authorities shall be informed of the advertisement to expand the association's membership in writing 7 days in advance.

Chapter 8 Meetings of the Association

Article 41: Categories of the association's meetings

1. General assembly;
2. Annual meetings;
3. Board meetings.

Article 43: General Assembly of the association

The General Assembly is the highest level of an association and is convened in the form of General assembly of all members or a general assembly of representatives of members in accordance with the charter of the association.

The general assembly is convened in accordance with the schedule defined in the charter not later than 5 years after the end of the previous session. In case the general assembly cannot be convened, the president of the association shall provide to the authorized agency the written justifications to postpone the general assembly.

The association can call for an extraordinary session if deemed necessary to discuss urgent matters of the association or when more than half of the ordinary members or 2/3 of the board's members call for an extraordinary session.

The principles and format of the votes during the session follow the principle of majority.

Prior to convening a general assembly, the board shall inform the authorized agency in written form about the contents, personnel who will be the chair or vice chairs of the board, association's committees, at least 30 days prior to the date of the general assembly. After the conclusion of the general assembly, the association shall provide the report of general assembly to the authorized agency and relevant authorities within 30 days.

Article 44: Annual meeting of the association

The annual meeting of the association is the meeting that is convened to draw conclusion on the results of the activities of the association over one year, to present the work plan for the following year, to award individuals for the contributions and to discuss other matters of the association.

The association shall submit its annual report to the authorized agency and relevant authorities for their information before the 15th December of each year.

The rules, notification about the meeting, attendance at the annual meeting shall follow the charter of the association.

Article 45: Board meetings

A board meeting is convened in accordance with the charter of the association at least twice a year with a view to drawing conclusion, reviewing the activities and pursuing the on-going activities in accordance to the annual work plan.

The rules, notification about the meeting, attendance at the board meeting shall follow the charter of the association.

Chapter 9

Merging, Separation, Dissolution and Establishment of the Association's Branches

Article 46: Merging

Merging of the associations is to merge many associations that operate in similar or different areas and sectors into one association on a voluntarism basis with the agreement from the relevant ministry, ministry-equivalent agencies and obtain the approval from the authorized agency.

Article 47: Separation

The separation of an association is the separation of one association into two or many associations based on the willingness of the members through the meeting of the association, with the agreement from the relevant ministry, ministry-equivalent agencies and obtain the approval from the authorized agency.

Article 48: Dissolution

An association can be dissolved for 2 cases:

1. Dissolution following the order of the authorized agency:
 - 1.1 An association violates the prohibitions prescribed in Article 31 of this Decree;
 - 1.2 An association operates in serious violations of Party's guidance and policy, the government's regulations and the association's charter;
 - 1.3 An association does not operate at least for 12 months or has achieved its objectives or continue to operate after the expire of its operational date;
 - 1.4 An association does not apply for registration.
2. Voluntary dissolutions by the association:
 - 2.1 More than half of the members request for dissolution;
 - 2.2 An association lacks of funding or cannot pursue activities;
 - 2.3 An association has completed its mandate as prescribed in the charter;
 - 2.4 An Association has achieved its objectives as defined in the charter.

Article 49: Duties of the association toward dissolution

1. Dissolution following the order of the authorized agency:

After the authorized agency issues a decision on the dissolution of an association, the association's board shall prepare and submit the following documents to the authorized agency:

- 1.1 The list of assets, liabilities, revenue-expenditures and remaining treasury;
- 1.2 The plan for debt clearance and how to handle remaining assets;
- 1.3 The decision on approval of the association's charter, the decision on the approval of the board and registration.

2. Voluntary dissolutions by the association

When an association agrees to be dissolved, the association's board shall prepare and submit the following documents to the authorized agency:

- 2.1 The request letter to dissolve the association;
- 2.2 The resolutions or record of the general assembly to dissolve the association;
- 2.3 The list of assets, liabilities, revenue-expenditures and remaining treasury;
- 2.4 The plan for debts clearance and how to handle remaining assets;

2.5 The decision on approval of the association's charter, the decision on the approval of the board and registration.

Article 50: Assets after the dissolution, termination of the duties and right of the association

After dissolution, the assets shall be handled in accordance with the charter of the association or transferred to other associations or foundations having similar objectives of activities or the government receive those assets in order to allocate to other associations or foundations.

The duties and rights of the dissolved association are terminated from the date the authorized agency revokes its decision to approve the charter, the decision on the approval of board and registration.

Article 51: Duties of the authorized agency towards the dissolution of association

The authorized agency has the following duties towards to the dissolution of association:

1. To issue the decision on the dissolution of the association;
2. To notify in writing to relevant agencies about the dissolution and notify the registration agency to remove the name of the association from the list of registered associations;
3. To encourage, monitor and handle the association's assets and liabilities in accordance with the laws and the government's regulations and association's charter;
4. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the government's regulations.

Article 52: Establishment of Branch office

The associations that operate nationwide can establish their branch offices in other location based on the agreement of local authorities and the approval from the authorized agency.

Chapter 10

Source of Revenue, Management and Utilization

Article 53: Source of association's revenue

The revenue of an association comes from various sources:

1. Membership fees;
2. Funds, assets from domestic and foreign donators;
3. Other sources in accordance with the laws and the government's regulations.

Article 54: Association's membership fees

The membership fees are fees that the members pay to the association on a monthly or annual basis. The association can define the appropriate amount of the fees in its charter.

Article 55: Receiving Funds, assets from domestic and foreign donators

An association can receive funds and assets from individuals, entities or organizations of Lao PDR but they shall be declared funds and assets with transparent sources. The

authorized agency shall be report in writing about the reception of the assets or funds within 7 days.

An associations can also receive funds and assets from foreign individuals, legal entities or organizations but they shall be declared funds and assets with transparent sources and shall seek for an approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accordance with specific regulations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs based on the comments from the authorized agency and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Article 56: Management and utilization of revenue sources

The management and utilization of revenue sources shall comply with the laws, relevant government's regulations and the association's charter but shall ensure that the gross overhead costs do not exceed 25% of the annual planned expenditures.

Chapter 11 Association's Assets and Management

Article 57: Association's assets

The assets of the associations are building, compounds, lands, vehicles, equipment and other assets contributed by the members, purchase, donation, grants from individual, entities, domestic and foreign donators or given by the Government.

Article 58: Management and utilization of assets

The management and utilization of assets of the association:

1. The government acknowledges and protects the assets of the association that are legally obtained;
2. The management and utilization of assets shall comply with the association's charter, laws and relevant government's regulations.

Chapter 12 Management Agencies

Article 59: Management agencies

The government shall manage the associations centrally and consistently nationwide by delegate the responsibilities to the following government agencies to directly manage the associations:

1. Relevant ministries, sectors;
2. Ministry of Home Affairs;
3. Ministry of Finances;
4. Ministry of Public Security;
5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
6. Lao Front for National Construction;
7. Provincial, Vientiane Capital authorities;
8. Provincial, Vientiane Capital departments;

9. Provincial, Vientiane Capital Home Affairs Departments;
10. District, municipal, city authorities;
11. District, municipality, city offices;
12. District, municipal, city Home Affairs Office;
13. Village authorities.

Article 60: Rights and duties of ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies

The ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies have the following rights and duties:

1. To examine, provide comments or consider the establishment, merging, separation and dissolution of the associations that are related to areas and sectors under their responsibilities;
2. To coordinate with other relevant ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, local authorities and provincial departments to manage, monitor, inspect organizations, activities of the associations in the sectors under their responsibilities;
3. To examine and consider the approval of programs, projects of the association and to encourage the implementation of the projects;
4. To coordinate with line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies to monitor and manage programs and projects of the association;
5. To examine and consider to respond to the association's proposals within the scope of their rights;
6. To disseminate policies, laws and regulations of their sectors to associations;
7. To advise, facilitate associations to conduct activities in accordance with their objectives and roles;
8. To approve or propose to relevant agencies or the Government to award the associations that have outstanding contribution to the social development and assistance related their sectors;
9. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 61: Rights and Duties of the Ministry of Home Affairs

In addition to the rights and duties prescribed in Articles 22, 27 and 60 of this Decree, the Ministry of Home Affairs also has the following rights and duties:

1. To act as a secretariat and assist the Government in centrally and uniformly manage the associations nationwide;
2. To coordinate with other ministries to examine policies, laws and the Government's regulations related to associations for further consideration and approval by higher authorities;
3. To register or revoke the association from the list of registered associations after the ministry and sector have approved or dissolved the association;
4. To consider imposing disciplinary measures to associations that the Ministry of Home Affairs has approved or request to the relevant authorities to take actions in case of violation of laws, the Government's regulations and association's charter;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 62: Rights and duties of the Ministry of Finance

In addition to the rights and duties prescribed in Article 22 and 60 of this Decree, the Ministry of Finance also has the following rights and duties:

1. To take the lead in examining regulations related to financial management and use of association's funds and provide advice on implementation;
2. To monitor, inspect the use of association's funds and assets;
3. To consider the requests from the association for tax and customs duty deduction or exemption, in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations;
4. To coordinate with relevant organizations to consider addressing the case of violation of laws and the Government's regulations related to finance;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 63: Rights and Duties of the Ministry of Public Security

In addition to the rights and duties prescribed in Article 22 and 60 of this Decree, the Ministry of Public Security also has the following rights and duties:

1. To inspect and certify the correctness of personal data of the founders, founding committees, mobilizing committee and board within 45 days, from the date that receive the request letter from the relevant ministry, ministry-equivalent agencies;
2. To monitor, inspect the activities of the association;
3. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 64: Rights and duties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In addition to the rights and duties prescribed in Article 22 and 60 of this Decree, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also has the following rights and duties:

1. To inspect, certify and consider matters in relation to the acceptance of funds and assets from donators, INGOs, entities, associations, foundations, funds, institutes and clubs from other countries in order to carry out programs and project of the associations within 30 days from the date that receive the request letter from the relevant ministry, ministry-equivalent agencies;
2. To coordinate with other relevant ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies to monitor and manage programs and project of the association that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has approved the acceptance of funds;
3. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 65: Rights and duties of Lao Front for National Construction

The Lao Front for National Construction has the following rights and duties:

1. To educate, enhance solidarity and encourage civil society organizations in implement policies, laws, regulations and socio-economic development plan, unite members of associations to build a synergy for the protection and development of the country;
2. To act as representatives of the associations and their members to convey their views, aspirations, suggestion to the relevant authorities for examination and solutions;

3. To participate and contribute to the formulation of policies and regulations related to association matters;
4. To uphold patriotism, fine culture and traditions of Lao multiethnic people, protect the legitimate rights and interests of the organizations, associations and the members in accordance with the laws and relevant Government's regulations;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 66: Rights and duties of provincial and Vientiane Capital Authorities

The provincial and Vientiane Capital authorities have the following rights and duties:

1. To manage the associations that operate in the province, Vientiane Capital through monitoring, inspections and report of relevant sectors;
2. To provide guidance, educate the associations that operate in the province, Vientiane Capital to conduct activities in compliance with laws, the Government's regulations and the association's charter;
3. To award or propose to the authorized agency to award the association with outstanding contribution to the social development and assistance in their respective localities;
4. To propose the authorized agency to impose disciplinary measures to the associations have violation of laws, the Government's regulations and association's charter;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 67: Rights and duties of provincial and Vientiane Capital Departments

The Provincial and Vientiane Capital Departments have the following rights and duties:

1. To disseminate, advise on the implementations of policies, laws and sector's regulations on association;
2. To examine, consider and provide comments on establishment, approval of merger, separation and dissolution of an association as prescribed in Articles 14 and 15 of this Decree;
3. To advise, facilitate, monitor and inspect the activities of associations that operate in their respective sectors to ensure effectiveness, to achieve the objectives and to be in line with the roles of the association;
4. To regularly report to the Provincial, Vientiane Capital authorities and higher authorities the status of associations' activities in their respective sectors for further consideration and guidance;
5. To examine and consider to address the request, mediate and settle the disputes including negative phenomenon caused by an association that operate in their respective sectors within the scope of their rights;
6. To assess the activities of associations and award or propose to the authorized agency to award associations with outstanding contribution to the social development and assistance in their respective localities;
7. To propose the ministers, heads of ministry-equivalent agencies or competent authorities of the province, Vientiane Capital to consider imposing measures to associations for violation of laws, the Government's regulations and the association's charter;

8. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 68: Rights and duties of provincial and Vientiane Capital Home Affairs Department

In addition to the rights prescribed in Article 67 of this Decree, the provincial and Vientiane Capital Home Affairs Departments also have the following rights and duties:

1. To disseminate, advise on the implementations of policies, laws and the Government's regulations on Association;
2. To periodically report to the Minister of Home Affairs, Governors and Mayor of Vientiane Capital on the activities of the associations that the Ministry of Home Affairs as approved to operate in their respective localities;
3. To assess the activities of associations and award or propose to the Government's competent agency to award the associations with outstanding contribution to the social development and assistance in the respective localities;
4. To propose Minister of Home Affairs or relevant competent authorities to consider imposing measures to the associations approved by Ministry of Home for violation of laws, Government's regulations and the association's charter;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations

Article 69: Rights and duties of district, municipal and city authorities

The district, municipal and city authorities have the following rights and duties:

1. To manage associations that operate in the districts, municipalities and cities through monitoring, inspections and report of relevant district, municipality and city offices;
2. To provide guidance, educate the associations that operate in the districts, municipalities and cities to conduct activities in compliance with laws, the Government's regulations and association's charter;
3. To award or propose the Governors and Mayor of Vientiane Capital to award associations with outstanding contribution to the development and assistance to the society in the respective localities;
4. To report to the Governor, Mayor of Vientiane Capital to propose to the authorized agency to impose disciplinary measures to the associations for violation of laws, the Government's regulations and the association's charter;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and Government's regulations.

Article 70: Rights and duties of district, municipal and city offices

The district, municipal and city offices have the following rights and duties:

1. To disseminate, advise on the implementations of policies, laws and sector's regulations on association;
2. To advise, facilitate, monitor and inspect the activities of the associations that operate in their respective sectors to ensure effectiveness, to achieve the objectives and to be in line with the roles of the association;
3. To regularly report to the district authorities and higher authorities on the status of the associations' activities on their respective sectors;

4. To assess the activities of the associations and award or propose to the authorized agency to award associations with outstanding contribution to the social development and assistance in the respective sectors;
5. To report to higher authority to propose to the authorized agency to consider imposing disciplinary measures to the associations that operate in the districts, municipalities and cities for violation of laws, the Government's regulations and the association's charter;
6. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 71: Rights and duties of district, municipal and city Home Affairs Offices

The district, municipal and city Home Affairs Offices have the following rights and duties:

1. To disseminate, advise on the implementations of policies, laws and the Government's regulations on association to the associations that operate in the districts or municipalities or villages;
2. To monitor, inspect and draw conclusion and lesson learned on the organizations, activities of associations that under the management of the districts, municipalities and cities;
3. To regularly report to provincial and Vientiane Capital Home Affairs Departments, chiefs of district, heads of municipalities and cities on the status of the associations' activities in their respective sectors;
4. To report to the Provincial and Vientiane Capital Home Affairs Departments to propose to the Ministry of Home Affairs that has approved the associations to operate in their districts, municipalities and cities to impose them disciplinary measures for violation of laws, the Government's regulations and the association's charter;
5. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and the Government's regulations.

Article 72: Rights and duties of village authorities

The village authorities have the following rights and duties:

1. To monitor, inspect and report about the implementation of associations contributed to the village development and poverty reduction in their villages to the district chief, head of municipality, head of city through the district, municipal and city Home Affairs Office;
2. To cooperate and facilitate the activities of the association;
3. To certify the contribution from the associations to the development of village and alleviating people's poverty in the village;
4. To draw conclusion and lesson learned from the activities of the association;
5. To issue certificates on the location of the association's office;
6. To sign and certify personal data of the association's Mobilizing Committee and board's members;
7. To exercise other rights and perform other duties in accordance with the laws and Government's regulations.

Article 73: Coordination

1. Coordination at the central level

- 1.1 The relevant ministries, sectors shall coordinate with the Ministry of Home Affairs in monitoring, inspecting and assessing the activities of the associations that operate in their respective sectors;
- 1.2 The line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies report to the Prime Minister through the Ministry of Home Affairs on the activities of the associations that operate in their respective areas, sectors on a semiannual basis;
- 1.3 In case of negative phenomena related to the associations, it is the duty of the authorized ministry or agency to take the lead in coordinating with relevant sectors to address or to propose to higher authorities to address the issues in accordance with laws and the Government's regulations;
- 1.4 The line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies shall receive comments from relevant ministries and sectors prior to approving the establishment, merging, separation and dissolution of an association.

2. Coordination at the local level

- 2.1 Relevant provincial departments shall coordinate with provincial, Vientiane Capital Home Affairs Department and relevant sectors to facilitate and cooperate with the associations in the planning and implementation of activities in their respective localities; pay attention to monitoring, inspection and assessment the association that work in their sectors;
- 2.2 In case of negative phenomena related to the associations, it is the duty of the relevant departments to take the lead in coordinating with provincial Home Affairs Department and relevant sectoral department to address or to propose to higher authorities to address the issues in accordance with laws and the Government's regulations;
- 2.3 Relevant district, municipal and city offices shall coordinate with district, municipal and city Home Affairs Offices in monitoring, inspection of activities of the association in their respective localities.

Chapter 13

Inspection agencies for Associations

Article 74: Inspection agencies for Associations

The inspection agencies for Associations are the following:

1. Management agencies as prescribed in Article 59 of this Decree;
2. State's Audit Organization;
3. Independent Audit.

Article 75: Association Inspection

The inspection agencies for the associations have the duties to inspect the organizations and activities of the association within the scope of their rights as follow:

1. To examine personal data of the association's founders, mobilizing committee and board's members;
2. To examine the association's objectives as described in the association's charter;
3. To examine the annual report on the organization and activities of the association;
4. To examine annual report on revenue-expenditures of the association;
5. To examine any violations of the association's charter, laws and the Government's regulations.

Chapter 14

Policy towards Associations with outstanding achievements and measures against violators

Article 76: Policy towards Associations with outstanding achievements

Associations, members of the associations with outstanding contributions to the society and country shall be awarded under various forms based on the Government's policy.

Article 77: Measures against violators

Associations, members of the associations who violate this Decree or laws and the Government's regulations will subject to warning, suspension, dissolution or prosecution according to the laws.

Chapter 15

Logo and seal

Article 78: Logo

If deemed necessary, an association can have its own logo which approved by the authorized agency according to the size and format as prescribed in the relevant laws and Government's regulations.

Article 79: Seal

An association shall have its own seal which approved by the authorized agency according to the size and format as prescribed in the relevant laws and Government's regulations.

Chapter 16

Final provisions

Article 80: Implementation

The line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, local authorities and civil society organizations within the country shall acknowledge and strictly implement this Decree.

Ministry of Home Affairs has the responsibilities for issuing detailed instructions on the implementation of this Decree.

Article 81: Entry into force

This Decree enters into forces 90 days after it is signed and 15 days after its publication in official Gazette.

With respect to the associations established under Decree on Association No.115/PM dated 29 April 2009, they shall re-register with Ministry of Home Affairs 60 days after this Decree becomes effective by submitting the proper set of documents as prescribed in Article 20 of this Decree.

This Decree shall replace the Decree on Association No. 115/PM dated 29 April 2009. All provisions and regulations that contravene the present Decree shall be null and void.

Government of Lao PDR

Seal and signature
Thongloun Sisoulith