



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

National Assembly

No. 34/PO

DECREE
of the
PRESIDENT
of the
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

**On the Promulgation of the Amended Law on the Government of the
Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Pursuant to Chapter 5, Article 53, point 1 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic which provides for the promulgation of the Constitution and of laws which are adopted by the National Assembly;

Pursuant to Resolution No. 27/NA, dated 6 May 2003, of the National Assembly regarding the adoption of the Amended Law on the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic; and

Pursuant to Proposal No. 19/NASC, dated 9 May 2003, of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

**The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
Decrees That:**

Article 1. The Amended Law on the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic is hereby promulgated.

Article 2. This decree shall enter into force on the date it is signed.

Vientiane, 30 May 2003

The President of Lao People's
Democratic Republic

[Seal and Signature]

Khamtay SIPHANDONE



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

National Assembly

No. 02/NA
6 May 2003

**LAW ON THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**Chapter 1
General Provisions**

Article 1. (New) Purpose of the Law on Government

The Law on Government determines the organisation, operation and framework method of the government in order to make effective the State administration, socio-economic management, natural resource utilization, and environmental protection, [and in order to] strengthen the rule of law and enrich the country, [thereby] improving the living conditions of the multi-ethnic people, [and] ensuring security and justice in the society.

Article 2. (New) Status and Role of the Government

The government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is the executive branch of the State, approved by and responsible to the National Assembly and the President of the State, [and] has the role to administer the State uniformly in [the following] aspects[:] political, economic, social, cultural,¹ use of natural resources, environmental protection, national defence and security, and foreign affairs.

Article 3. (New) Operation Principles of the Government

The government operates on a principle of democratic centralism² based on the Constitution and laws, having the Lao People's Revolutionary Party as the axle and having the Lao Front for National Construction, the mass

¹ The term "socio-cultural" is one word in Lao.

² Readers may wish to refer to Article 5 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Article 4 of the Law on National Assembly, and Article 5 of the Law on Local Administration of the Lao People's Democratic Republic where references to the same principle are made.

organisations and the social organisations as the power³, [and] uses educational, economic, and administrative methods to manage the State and to manage the society and economy⁴.

Article 4. (New) Term of Office of the Government

The term of office of the government is the same as the term of office of the National Assembly. In the event that the term of the government expires, but the National Assembly has not approved a new government, the former government shall continue to exercise its functions.

Chapter 2
Structure, Rights and Duties of the Government

Article 5. (New) The Institutional Structure of the Government

The institutional structure of the government is composed of the Prime Minister's Office, ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations⁵ which are approved by the National Assembly based on the proposal of the Prime Minister.

The structure of the government shall be determined based on the actual needs of the country in each period.

Article 6. (New) The Personnel Structure of the Government

The government is composed of the Prime Minister, deputy prime ministers, ministers of ministries and ministers to the Prime Minister's Office, and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations.

Article 7. (New) Rights and Duties of the Government

The government has the following rights and duties:

1. To implement the Constitution, the laws and resolutions of the National Assembly, and presidential edicts and decrees[; to] disseminate the laws, educate people to respect and implement the laws and regulations, and to define measures to protect lawful rights and interests of the citizens;

³ The analogy of axle and power is intended to reflect the party's role as the central distributing system and the role of the other organisations in effecting the work.

⁴ The term "socio-economy" is one word in Lao.

⁵ The term "ministry-equivalent organisations" as used in this law (and in most other contexts) refers to governmental agencies that have a status equivalent to ministries. The reader may wish to bear in mind, however, that the same term is used in the Constitution but with a wider meaning and, there, includes mass organisations and the Lao Front for National Construction.

2. To determine strategic plans, socio-economic development plans and annual State budgets and to submit them to the National Assembly for consideration and approval;
3. To manage uniformly the building and development of [the country's] economic, social, cultural, scientific and technical foundations⁶[;] to implement fiscal and currency policies; to manage and assure the effective use of national assets; [and] to protect the State, collective and private property⁷ based on the Constitution and laws;
4. To report on its operations to the National Assembly, or to the National Assembly Standing Committee when the National Assembly is not in session, and to report to the President of the State;
5. To examine and comment on, and to submit, drafts of laws to the National Assembly for consideration and approval and drafts of presidential edicts to the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration;
6. To examine and comment on, and to submit, drafts of presidential decrees to the President of the State for consideration and approval;
7. To issue decrees and resolutions on State administration, socio-economic management, [and management in the fields of] science and technology⁸, capacity building and use of human resources, protection and utilization of natural resources, the environment and other resources, national defence and security, and foreign affairs;
8. To organise, direct, facilitate and oversee the activities of sectoral organisations and local administrations⁹ to ensure effectiveness and compliance with the laws and regulations;
9. To organise and administer citizens in a uniform manner throughout the country;
10. To strengthen the national defence and security forces and social order, to build the people's armed forces, to execute orders on force mobilisation, [and] to determine necessary measures to protect the country;
11. To suspend the implementation of or cancel¹⁰ decisions, guidelines, and notifications of ministries, ministry-equivalent

⁶ The term “foundations” is used in the sense of bedrock or basis, not institutions.

⁷ Readers may wish to refer to the Property Law for further information on these categories of property.

⁸ In Lao, the term is “science, techniques, technology”.

⁹ Readers may wish to refer to the Law on Local Administration for more information on the composition, authority and responsibilities of administrative agencies at the local level (i.e., at the provinces, cities, special zones, districts, municipalities and villages). These agencies are referred to generally as “local administrations”.

¹⁰ In Lao, the term is “cancel and terminate”.

- organisations, and other governmental organisations and local administrations that are incompatible with the law;
12. To create, abolish and define the borderlines of districts or municipalities based on the proposal of provincial governors or city mayors;
 13. To organise monitoring and inspection of the State¹¹, to combat against the non-observance of laws, corruption and other negative occurrences and to consider the complaints or petitions of the people against such performance of civil servants, government officials and executive organs [that contravenes the] law, based on laws and regulations;
 14. To coordinate, cooperate, negotiate and sign conventions and agreements with foreign countries, [and] to administer and monitor foreign affairs activities and the implementation of signed conventions and agreements;
 15. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided by the Constitution, laws and regulations.

Chapter 3 **Meeting of the Government¹²**

Article 8. (New) Meeting of the Government

The meeting of the government is held once every month and is convened and presided over by the Prime Minister, except when the President of the State attends the meeting, as provided in Article 10 (New) of this law. The meeting will only take place if at least two-thirds of the total members of the government are present.

Members of the government have the duty to participate in every meeting of the government. Other concerned people may also be invited to attend the meeting. The non-members of the government [invited to the meeting] have the right to give comments at the meeting but do not have the right to vote. The meeting of the government approves or decides an issue based on majority vote. If the vote is tied, the chairman has the casting vote.

If it is deemed necessary and urgent, an extraordinary session may be convened upon the decision of the Prime Minister or upon the request of at least one-third of the total members of the government.

The government has to call governors and mayors to attend its meetings twice a year, in order to monitor and direct the operations of local administrations.

¹¹ This appears to be a reference to the monitoring of the activities of State agencies.

¹² The term “meeting of the government” is used interchangeably to mean “a meeting of members of the government” and “those members of the government who are assembled at a meeting of members of the government”.

In each meeting, minutes of the meeting shall be recorded, which shall be signed by the chairman and distributed to members of the government and concerned sectors¹³ for information and implementation.

Article 9. (New) Issues to be Discussed at the Meeting of the Government

The issues to be considered and agreed upon are as follows:

1. Strategic plans and socio-economic development plans;
2. Annual State budgets and budget adjustments;
3. Drafts of laws, presidential edicts and decrees, and Prime Minister's decrees;
4. Creation, dissolution, merger or division of ministries, ministry-equivalent organisations, provinces, cities or special zones[; and] the defining of borderlines between provinces, cities or special zones before their proposal to the National Assembly for consideration and approval;
5. Creation, dissolution, merger or division of organisations that are directly under the government;
6. Creation, dissolution, merger, division or definition of the border between districts and municipalities;
7. Summary of activities of the government;
8. National defence and security, and foreign affairs;
9. Contents of negotiations, conventions, and agreements with foreign countries;
10. Reports to the National Assembly and the President of the State.

In addition to the above-mentioned matters, the meeting of the government may also discuss other important and urgent matters.

Article 10. (New) Extraordinary Meeting of the Government

The extraordinary meeting of the government is a meeting of members of the government convened and chaired by the President of the State. This kind of government meeting can be called at any time when the country is undergoing an economic or cultural and social disaster or crisis, or an emergency in national defence and security or foreign affairs.

Chapter 4
Role, Rights and Duties of the Prime Minister

Article 11. (New) Role of the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is the head of the government, and directs, facilitates and controls the activities of the government and local administrations.

¹³ The term “sectors” is often used to refer to the cluster of governmental agencies responsible for an area. Here, the reference is to those clusters of governmental agencies that may be “concerned” in the matters discussed in the meeting.

Article 12. (New) Rights and Duties of the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister has the following rights and duties:

1. To call and chair the meeting of the government;
2. To direct and facilitate activities of the government, to monitor the implementation of resolutions of the National Assembly, [and] resolutions of the meeting of the government, and [to monitor the] activities of ministries, ministry-equivalent organisations, provinces, cities and other organisations that are directly under the government;
3. To propose to the President of the State the appointment, transfer or removal of deputy prime ministers, ministers, ministers to the Prime Minister's Office, and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations [and to submit such proposals] to the National Assembly for consideration and approval;
4. To propose to the President of the State the appointment and recall of plenipotentiary representatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to foreign countries;
5. To propose to the President of the State the appointment, transfer or removal of provincial governors, [and] city mayors, and to propose the promotion or demotion of generals in the national defence and security forces;
6. To appoint, transfer or remove vice-ministers, vice-ministers to the Prime Minister's Office, vice-chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations, chiefs and deputy chiefs of sub-ministries, director generals of departments, vice-governors, vice-mayors, chiefs of districts and municipalities, [and] chiefs of organisations that are directly under the government and other equivalent positions;
7. To promote or demote colonels in the national defence and security forces;
8. To issue decrees, orders and instructions, and guidelines on the implementation of policies, laws and regulations, and government plans; and to issue decrees on the establishment and operations of ministries, ministry-equivalent organisations, sub-ministries and local administrations;
9. To submit annual reports on the operation of government activities to the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee (when the National Assembly is not in session) and to the President of the State;
10. To assign rights and duties to one of the deputy prime ministers when the Prime Minister is engaged or not available;
11. To dismiss himself when he is incapable of carrying out duties as a result of health problems or other reasons;
12. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided by the Constitution, laws and regulations.

Article 13. (New) Appointment of the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is appointed or removed by the President of the State after the approval of the National Assembly.

Article 14. (New) Roles of Deputy Prime Ministers

The deputy prime ministers assist the Prime Minister to lead, facilitate and monitor government activities, and may be assigned by the Prime Minister to carry out certain activities. When the Prime Minister is not available, the assigned deputy prime minister will assume responsibilities on his behalf.

The deputy prime ministers have the right to remove themselves when they feel that they are incapable of carrying out duties as a result of health problems or other reasons.

Article 15. (New) Appointment of Deputy Prime Ministers

The deputy prime ministers are appointed or removed by the President of the State after the approval of the National Assembly.

**Chapter 5
Prime Minister's Office**

Article 16. (New) Role of the Prime Minister's Office

The Prime Minister's Office is an organ in the government structure, performs the role of secretariat¹⁴ to the government, [and] coordinates, examines, and summarises all affairs relating to government activities; [it] studies, and facilitates the operation of the government, the Prime Minister and other organisations that are directly under the government.

Article 17. (New) Institutional Structure of the Prime Minister's Office

The Prime Minister's Office consists of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, [and] secretariats to the government, [and] sub-ministries and organisations that are directly under the government.

Article 18. (New) Personnel Structure of the Prime Minister's Office

The Prime Minister's Office is under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister[. It]¹⁵ has deputy prime ministers, ministers to the Prime Minister's Office, deputy ministers to the Prime Minister's Office, chiefs and deputy chiefs of the Cabinet, chiefs and deputy chiefs of secretariats to the government, chiefs and deputy chiefs of sub-ministries, chiefs and deputy chiefs of organisations that are directly under the government, director

¹⁴ The literal translation is "secretariat". However, in this context, the meaning goes beyond that of an administrative and clerical role, to connote strategic advice and implementation.

¹⁵ For readability, the structure of this sentence has been modified.

generals and deputy director generals of departments, heads and deputy heads of divisions and technical officers¹⁶.

Article 19. (New) Rights and Duties of the Prime Minister's Office

The Prime Minister's Office has the following rights and duties:

1. To prepare for, record [the minutes of] and report [on the results of] the meetings of the government;
2. To summarise and collect domestic and foreign data and information to report to the government and the Prime Minister;
3. To examine and analyse issues of concern, and to propose to the government and the Prime Minister [that these issues be taken into consideration] when defining policies, strategic development plans, and mechanisms to manage the economy, cultural and social matters, national defence and security, foreign affairs, the protection of natural resources and [the preservation of ecological balance]¹⁷;
4. To manage activities that are not within the responsibility of ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations;
5. To create conditions and to facilitate the operations of the government, the Prime Minister, and other organisations that are directly under the Prime Minister's Office;
6. To coordinate and cooperate with the Cabinet of the Party Central Committee, the Cabinet of the National Assembly, the Cabinet of the Office of the President, ministries, ministry-equivalent organisations, provinces, cities, the Lao Front for National Construction, [and] the mass organisations at central level to arrive at a consensus on the facilitation and administration of general activities of the government;
7. To carry out such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the Prime Minister and as provided by the Constitution, laws and regulations.

Article 20. (New) Role of Ministers to the Prime Minister's Office

Ministers to the Prime Minister's Office are members of the government, act as secretaries¹⁸ to the government, and are responsible for certain tasks as assigned by the Prime Minister.

¹⁶ The term “technical officers” refers to staff with specific technical capabilities, such as lawyers, accountants, and IT personnel and is intended to make a distinction between such staff and purely administrative or clerical staff.

¹⁷ The literal translation is “balance of environment”.

¹⁸ The term “secretary” is used in the sense of a cabinet-level official of a national government. E.g. a “Secretary of State”.

Article 21. (New) Rights and Duties of Ministers to the Prime Minister's Office

Ministers to the Prime Minister's Office have the following rights and duties:

1. To elaborate on and implement the resolutions of the meeting of the government in the area of their responsibility;
2. To direct, manage and monitor the implementation of action plans in the area of their responsibility;
3. To issue decisions, orders, guidelines and notifications to strengthen the efficiency of the work in their area of responsibility;
4. To suspend or cancel¹⁹ decisions, orders, guidelines and notifications of subordinate organisations in the area of their responsibility, and to propose amendments to and cancellation of the legal acts of other sectors, or of provinces or cities, that conflict with rules and principles in the area of their responsibility or that conflict with laws and regulations;
5. To issue necessary measures to ensure the implementation of annual work plans;
6. To develop drafts of laws, presidential edicts, presidential decrees and Prime Minister's decrees in the area of their responsibility [and to submit the same] to the government;
7. To appoint, transfer, or remove deputy director generals, [and] heads and deputy heads of divisions in their departments;
8. To coordinate, cooperate, and sign agreements and protocols with foreign countries as assigned by the government;
9. To remove themselves when they are incapable of fulfilling their duties because of health problems or for other reasons;
10. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the Prime Minister or as provided by the Constitution, laws and regulations.

Article 22. (New) Role of Deputy Ministers to the Prime Minister's Office

Deputy ministers to the Prime Minister's Office act as secretaries to the government and are responsible for certain tasks as assigned by the Prime Minister or by ministers to the Prime Minister's Office.

The term of office of deputy ministers to the Prime Minister's Office is the same as the term of office of the government.

Deputy ministers to the Prime Minister's Office have the right to remove themselves when they are incapable of fulfilling their duties because of health problems or for other reasons.

¹⁹

In Lao, the term is "cancel and terminate".

Chapter 6

Ministries and Ministry-Equivalent Organisations

Article 23. (New) Status and Role of Ministries and Ministry-Equivalent Organisations

The ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations act as secretariats to the government, and are responsible for macro-management²⁰ of their sectors throughout the country.

Article 24. (New) Institutional Structure of the Ministries and Ministry-Equivalent Organisations

The ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations consist of cabinets of the ministries, cabinets of the ministry-equivalent organisations, departments, divisions, institutes and technical units²¹ as defined by the decrees of the Prime Minister.

Article 25. (New) Personnel Structure of the Ministries and Ministry-Equivalent Organisations

The ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations consist of ministers or chairmen of the ministry-equivalent organisations, deputy ministers or vice-chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations, chiefs and deputy chiefs of cabinet, director generals, deputy director generals, heads and deputy heads of divisions, directors and deputy directors of institutes, leaders²² and deputy leaders of technical units and technical officers.

Article 26. (New) Rights and Duties of Ministries and Ministry-Equivalent Organisations

Ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations have the following rights and duties:

1. To study and draft policies and strategic plans of their own sectors to submit to the government;
2. To elaborate on policies, plans, and resolutions of the government into detailed plans, programs and projects and to be responsible for their implementation;
3. To propose adjustments to [the government regarding[,]] or to develop drafts of laws, presidential edicts, presidential decrees, and Prime Minister's decrees[,]] and to issue decisions, orders, guidelines, and notifications to ensure macro-management of their own sector;

²⁰ The term “macro-management” is used to refer to management at the central rather than the local level.

²¹ The term “units” refers to work units engaged in a particular activity.

²² The term “leader” is a generic term used for head of team or leader of team.

4. To direct and vertically control the implementation of activities and personnel within their own sectors in cooperation with local administrations;
5. To develop human resources within their own sector;
6. To cooperate with foreign countries as assigned by the government;
7. To review and summarise the state of the implementation of activities within their own sectors to the government and the Prime Minister;
8. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the government and as provided by the Constitution, laws and regulations.

Article 27. (New) Role of the Ministers and Chairmen of Ministry-Equivalent Organisations

Ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations are members of the government, and they are the heads of [their respective] sectors and act as secretaries to the government on the macro-management of their sectors.

Article 28. (New) Rights and Duties of Ministers and Chairmen of Ministry-Equivalent Organisations

Ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations have the following rights and duties:

1. To elaborate on and implement resolutions of the meeting of the government within their own sectors;
2. To direct, manage, and monitor the implementation of activities of their sectors;
3. To issue decisions, orders, guidelines and notifications aimed at improving efficiency in their respective organisations and in the management of their respective sectors;
4. To suspend or cancel²³ decisions, orders, guidelines, and notifications of subordinate organisations that are within their own sectors, and have to propose amendments to, or the suspension or cancellation of the legal acts of other sectors, or local administration that conflict with rules and principles within their own sectors or that conflict with the laws and regulations;
5. To issue necessary measures to ensure the implementation of annual work plans;
6. To propose amendments to, or to develop drafts of laws, presidential edicts, presidential decrees and Prime Minister's decrees concerning their sectors to the government;
7. To appoint, transfer, or remove deputy chiefs of cabinets, deputy director generals, heads and deputy heads of departments, [and] leaders and deputy leaders of technical units;

²³

In Lao, the term is “cancel and terminate”.

8. To appoint, transfer, or remove directors and deputy directors of provincial line divisions, and chiefs and deputy chiefs of district offices in cooperation with local administrations;
9. To assign certain tasks to deputy ministers or vice-chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations when [such Minister or Chairman] is not available;
10. To coordinate, cooperate, and sign agreements and protocols with foreign countries as assigned by the government;
11. To remove themselves when they are incapable of fulfilling their duties because of health problems or for other reasons;
12. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the government or as provided by the Constitution, laws and regulations.

Article 29. (New) Roles of Deputy Ministers and Vice-Chairmen of Ministries and Ministry-Equivalent Organisations

Deputy ministers and vice-chairmen of ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations act as assistants to ministers of ministries and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations to direct and facilitate the management of general activities of ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations and to be responsible for certain tasks as assigned by ministers of ministries and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organisations.

The term of office of deputy ministers and vice-chairmen of ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations is the same as the term of office of the government.

Deputy ministers and vice-chairmen of ministries and ministry-equivalent organisations have the right to remove themselves when they are incapable of fulfilling their duties because of health problems or for other reasons.

Chapter 7
Work Method of the Government

Article 30. (New) Work Method of the Government

The government carries out its affairs based on the principle of democratic centralism by integrating collective responsibility with personal accountability. The meeting of the government is the main form by which the government conducts its activities.

Article 31. (New) Activities of the Members of the Government

In carrying out its activities, members of the government must respect the role of other members and also interact with each other.

When there is no consensus among members of the government, the issue shall be submitted to the Prime Minister for consideration and resolution.

In conducting foreign affairs, the members of the government must request opinions from the Prime Minister.

Article 32. (New) Relationship with the National Assembly²⁴

The government has the obligation to report on the implementation of its annual operations to the National Assembly, to propose strategic plans for socio-economic development, State budgets, and amendments to the State budget to the National Assembly for consideration and approval, and to clarify or explain, or to respond to questions from members [of the National Assembly] regarding[,] the performance of the duties of the government or of any member of the government.

When the National Assembly is not in session, members of the government are obligated to report their activities to the National Assembly Standing Committee and to provide data as required by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

In conducting foreign affairs or domestic affairs that have important aspects, the government shall receive prior approval from the National Assembly. If foreign cooperation results in the signing of conventions or agreements that require ratification under the law, the government shall present relevant documents to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

Article 33. (New) Relationship with the President of the State

The government reports its activities to the President of the State. The extraordinary meeting of the government is called and chaired by the President of the State.

Article 34. (New) Relationship with the People's Supreme Court²⁵ and Office of²⁶ the Supreme Public Prosecutor²⁷

The government coordinates with the People's Supreme Court and the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor to monitor the application of the laws, and to prevent negative occurrences in society.

²⁴ Readers may wish to refer to the Law on National Assembly for more information on this institution.

²⁵ Readers may wish to refer to the Law on the People's Courts for more information on this institution.

²⁶ Readers may wish to refer to the Law on the People's Public Prosecutor for more information on this institution.

²⁷ The term "Public Prosecutor" has been chosen because it is the English term commonly used in Laos for this title/institution. Other common translations are "People's Prosecutor" or "People's Public Prosecutor". Readers from common law jurisdictions should note that the Lao Public Prosecutor has considerably more powers than public prosecutors in their home jurisdictions and is more akin to a procurator in socialist systems. In addition, readers should note that the term is principally used to refer to the "office" or "organisation" of public prosecutors rather than to refer to individual prosecutors.

When it is deemed necessary, the government may invite the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor to attend the meeting of the government.

Article 35. (New) Relationship with the Lao Front for National Construction, Mass Organisations and Social Organisations

To assure the effectiveness of its activities, the government must coordinate with the Lao Front for National Construction, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, Trade Union, the Lao Women's Union and other social organisations for consultation and exchange of views, to encourage these organisations to participate in public administration, [and] socio-economic management, to inform these organisations on the direction and resolutions of the government, and other important matters, [and] to respond to their concerns and develop conditions to enable the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations and social organisations to perform their roles.

If deemed necessary, the government may also invite the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations and social organisations to attend the meeting of the government.

Article 36. (New) Consideration of the People's Complaints and Petitions

In conducting its activities, the government and members of the government listen to public opinion.

The government considers the people's complaints and petitions regarding misconduct of staff, government officials and State executive organs at different levels based on the laws and regulations.

Chapter 8

Final Provisions

Article 37. (New) Implementation

The government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is responsible for the implementation of this law.

Article 38. (New) Effectiveness

This law supersedes the Law on the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic No. 01/95, dated 8 March 1995.

This law enters into force from the date of the promulgating decree issued by the President of the State of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Provisions and rules that conflict with this law shall be abrogated.

Vientiane, 6 May 2003
President of the National Assembly

[Seal and Signature]

Samane VIGNAKET