Unofficial translation

National Broadcast
By
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Head of the National Council for Peace and Order
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- Good evening dear citizens. Today we meet again as we have many times before during the past period. I wish to ask those who have been regularly following this programme to convey my messages to others who have not, in order for them to understand and together move our country forward .

- It has been a little over two months since the NCPO has taken charge of national administration. Today, the overall situation of our country, both relating to politics and to our people's living conditions, is quite peaceful. Smiles can be found in all areas. Even though some still face problems in making a livelihood, but looking back to the period before 22 May 2014, you may recall the disarray and chaos that have happened—conflicts, protests. People were not able to lead their lives peacefully. There were uses of violence and war weapons among opposing groups. Many innocent people were injured and killed. There were widespread human rights violations. Media were used to incite hatred among fellow Thais for political and other goals, causing damage to people's properties. The country's economy faced many obstacles. Corruption ran rampant among state agencies and the private sector. The then government was not able to fully provide basic services to the people. Our country risked becoming a failed state or the possibility of riots and civil war breaking out.

- All of these have formed part of the status quo of our country for more than 10 years since before 2006. And there are many causes which gave rise to all these problems, such as corruption, the lack of moral and ethics, conflicts of thoughts or political ideals, etc., as you all know. And we are going to help each other tackle these issues. In resolving these protracted and deep-rooted problems, serious efforts will be needed, as well as the determination and cooperation from all of us in all sectors. We all have to dedicate ourselves to make our country a better place to live in; to ensure the happiness of our people; and to develop our system of governance to become a full-fledged democracy, in order to thoroughly and equally provide benefits to all groups and sides.

- **The current operation of the NCPO has entered the second phase of the Roadmap**—the Provisional Constitution has been promulgated and we are advancing with the reform of the country. In relation to this, there are certain points I would like to make clear to all of you.

- **Firstly, on the NCPO's power pursuant to the Provisional Constitution,** the NCPO reiterates that it has no intention to use the power provided for its own gains, but will use it only to ensure that reforms can truly be carried out effectively and lead to tangible results. As can be seen during the first phase of the Roadmap, the NCPO has been very cautious in exercising its authority. Power was used only

when necessary to avoid impact on the rights and liberties of the people. All of our operations have been in line with the principles of human rights and respect for human dignity and have always been in accordance with the Roadmap and what had been promised to the public. The NCPO still retains its power on certain matters as this is necessary under the current, irregular situation. We have limited time to move forward with the reforming of our country in order for elections to be held as soon as possible.

- **On the movements against the NCPO's operations both inside and outside of the country, the issue at the moment is section 112 of the Criminal Code**. I ask for your understanding of the distinction on this. Ordinary people are protected by the law on libel or defamation. As for the monarchy, we have to find ways to keep this respected and revered institution in a safe and suitable place and prevent it from being exploited to make false claims to destroy each other.

- Whoever commits the offence of section 112 has to face the consequences. If you did not commit such a crime, no punishment will come to you as there are many verification steps in the judicial process—from the filing of claims, the consideration before the case reaches public prosecutors of whether to bring legal action, and further consideration by a working group from the Ministry of Justice after the case reaches the public prosecutors.

- However, there are still those who seek to violate this law: intend to not understand: and use this law for the destruction of others. There needs to be accurate verification as to whether the crime has been committed. If no crime took place or done without intent, I believe the law allows for exemptions of liability or provides special considerations in those cases. Please cooperate with us on this.

- Foreigners may still not understand that the monarchy is above politics. So, it depends on the people who seek to taint the monarchy's standing. We have to look out for this and help to create an understanding on the matter.

- **As for the operations of the NCPO**, they can be briefly summarized as follows. During the **current short-term period of around three months**, we are undertaking restructurings and reorganizations via administration by the NCPO before a cabinet is appointed. In the **middle term, we will have a government by around September** as the country needs an interim government with full powers in the administration of the country. We will need to make a transition from operations in the first phase to addressing problems and carrying out reforms, as well as passing new laws, and making preparations for elections to ensure that we will be a fully functioning democracy.

- After the second phase, for **the long term, we will have an elected government**. Please be patient. Rushing the process may be dangerous for our work. Some problems require time to tackle as they have persisted for more than a decade.

- **The bottom line is that we need to have trust among the people from all sectors who are involved or have an interest in the well-being of the nation**. The NCPO is doing what it is doing for the nation and the Thai people, not for its own gains. We realize that we cannot expect anything in return but a job well done. We could have left things as they were and see the country fail, but we could not, as it is our duty to take care of the country's security. Thus, we could not leave the people to their troubles. We need to trust each other for things to proceed smoothly. Making unconstructive comments and complaints will lead to nowhere.

- Today, we are trying to rethink and redo everything. There are both old and new problems to tackle, where some relate to conflicts that have never happened before in Thailand. We need to look back at the causes, the persons involved, and see to it that the problems are resolved. If everyone thinks that NCPO wants power or are using power for our own gains, we would not deem it necessary to have a government. NCPO would have continued our administration of the country like in the first phase, with fewer complexities. But we could not do that because we want to show that we do not want power. We only want to ensure that reforms can truly take place with participation from all sectors. Such participation is necessary as problems will follow if some people do not accept the proposed solutions. Those not taking part should think very hard about this. When others come to an agreement and the process finishes, those who have not participated in the process cannot simply deny their responsibilities and their knowledge of the matter. One should rethink this.

- Today, we have been using our best efforts to reduce the tension and pressure, both within the country and from outside. However, some people still finds our efforts unsatisfactory. As for those who continue to demand for and care only about quick elections, I wonder if they felt nothing at all about past events that have been happening in this country. At present, all countries in the world are fighting. Why do we need to go back to the time we were too? In addition to this, we also need to make preparations for moving Thai people out of conflict zones. Currently, many countries are fighting or having civil wars. Do we want Thailand to be one of those countries?

- **On the satisfaction of the people**, during the past two months, we have been tackling many issues to address people's grievances and help with their career, income, and living. These are measures to provide urgent relief to the obstacles they face and will not have much effect in the long term, as these problems have been accumulated over a very long period of time. Resolving the country's problem systematically still seems to be having limited impact on a household or personal level. We need to address these problems in all levels, as we live in a society of many different people who have come to live together but may have different standards. We need to address many things: policies, administration/management, government expenditure, regulations, laws, bureaucratic system, and many other issues. When these matters are better organized and systematized, we will see more of the impact on the general public, where work done for and services provided to the people will see significant

improvements. Everyone needs to be patient. We are trying to solve urgent problems first, which will benefit the people in the long term. If we rush everything, the same problems may happen again. We need to find ways to resolve them completely.

- If we can reform everything as planned, government officials will also be able to provide better services to the people. It will take considerable amount of time in this second phase. The reorganization taking place at present in some areas may cause some difficulties for some groups of people. However, you need to understand that if you are making a living or profiting off an illegal business or career, it would not be fair for those who are not breaking the law. If you continue allowing corrupt officials to provide backing for those committing offences, rules and laws will be overlooked and there will be disorder in the country. If we leave these things as they are, there will be injustice. People will find themselves with more problems. Only some groups will benefit from this with the majority overlooked. And this will again lead to conflicts like in the past. We need to address these issues by starting with ourselves. Government officials and the people need to have integrity and be moral and ethical in living together.

- **On the 3-phase reforms**, the first phase—the preparation phase for setting up the National Legislative Assembly—has already been completed. We needed this preparation phase in the lead-up to the second phase, which will see the establishment of the National Reform Council about one month and a half to two months after there is a Council of Ministers or Cabinet. The selection and appointment process will take time.

- I wish for all the people involved or who are interested parties to the nation's well-being, especially current and future politicians, to understand and accept that the country is facing many obstacles at this moment. It has been so for a long time. Democracy in Thailand is also facing many problems. You need to differentiate between personal problems and problems of the society or the nation. Separate the interest of the nation from the means to resolve problems, as both of these will be considered in tackling said problems. Involve factors relating to yourself only when solutions have already been thought up. If you involve yourself from the beginning, your interests will be considered and you will not be able to solve the problem. You need to remove yourself out of the process first. If some say this matter should be so and so, they should have fixed it a long time ago within the framework of democracy. But they were not able to, which is why the operations of the NCPO are necessary. Please refrain from complicating matters. We need to work together on this. You know all the problem there is, because you have been involved with or exposed to them for a long time, albeit without the ability to solve them. So, to improve our political system, we need to remove ourselves from the equation.

- When we can solve the problems, including those relating to the process and means of operation and administration, we will be able to provide better service to the public. This will be considered a success in the reform of the country. But if people keep worrying that there are too much of this and that—too many rules and regulations, for instance—and worrying about their effects on our lives—asking questions like "How will I be able to govern?", "What interests will I have?"—I say these people might not be Thai. Thai people have to put the interests of the nation before those of their own. That is what we think, as the people's military. If people keep worrying about the country not being a democracy, or not having elections, or about the effect on a party's votes when there can no longer be populist policies, we will not go anywhere. I believe there are countless ways to make people want to vote for you. If you are a good person then there is nothing to worry about. But when you come into office, you need to manage things properly. Do not create disorder, confusion, or conflicts, and be transparent. If you can do that, people will elect you for sure.

- **On reforming human resources**, which is an important task and one of the 11 reform issues, administration is run by people, so if the people who are responsible for a task are incompetent, we will be facing a huge obstacle. This is because human resource is the most important resource of every country in the world, including ours. All problems that have arisen in this country are the result of people's different beliefs and attitudes. Therefore, we need to adjust their values and attitudes in order for Thai people to be nice, sharing, caring, smiling, moral, and ethical, and for them to know their duties, be responsible, and put the interest of the nation before their own, as I have already said before. Implanting the 12 Thai values is not an easy task and must be done in a person's childhood period. Adults must teach their children of these values as well as be role models for them.

- Thai people, by nature, love themselves, their families, and their friends—sometimes forgetting others, which may make it seems like they lack compassion and care for others. However, if there is a common enemy or someone of the sort who have come to fight, Thai people will unite in fighting back. It has been so for a very long time as can be seen from history. These are not unhealthy traits, they are good ones. But if we do not fight among ourselves during regular hours then that would be great. In today's world, we cannot be bickering among ourselves. The world has over 200 countries. If we fight with our own people, how will we compete with the rest of the world? We need to be compassionate and caring for others. Do not be selfish or hating others. Sometimes, you like or do not like a person just because you are told by others that the person is good or bad. Sometimes people dedicate themselves to someone who may seem like he/she cares for them. Giving things to and conferring benefits on someone may cause them to not think about where those things and benefits come from. This leads to further division of the groups of people as benefits can never thoroughly reach everyone. I would like to remind you of a saying by His Majesty the King that said 'do not give only fish, but also a rod'. If we want the benefits to thoroughly reach everyone, we need to be caring, sharing, and accepting of others. Otherwise,

societies will fail. Good people will not be able to keep up their standing; the attitudes of people, government officials, civil servants, as well as police and military officers will change. They will accept influence outside the system and illegal activities. For instance, they may view a corrupt person who shares the wealth as acceptable. This type of thinking promotes activities outside the framework of the law. And the people who do it defend each other, sometimes harming each other by words or force, which leads to conflict, injuries, deaths, or loss of reputation. Good people will lose morale in their work or desire to enter politics as a result of this. We need to make these people view politics to be inviting to all people and as a constructive means to provide services or help other people. If this succeeds, our political system will see a lot of improvement.

- **The most dangerous matters are the deception, provocation, corruption, and committing wrongdoings together,** which are the causes of disorder and unrest. The nation is sacred. Giving things that have been dishonestly taken from others to certain groups of people is wrong. And what is left for the people is a small portion. I think the people should understand and open their eyes more. They should also share the happiness they receive to others who did not receive them. In a system of democracy, everyone, every group, and every side needs to be taken care of, despite them belonging to different sides or having different opinions. This is the politics and democracy of Thailand.

- **On the National Legislative Assembly, the Cabinet, and the National Reform Council,** not much has been done; everything is still in the process. Some have also criticized that their set up is not democratic and society groups are not represented equally. Well, that is because all of them have not come from elections. We are aiming to solve the country's problems and ensure that the mechanisms for reforms can work smoothly. The members of those organizations will not be members of parliament or politicians; they will comprise military officials, civil servants, and people who support us. Please pay attention to how they could benefit the nation rather than focusing on the individual. Everyone has their positive and negative attributes; no one is perfect, except perhaps the person judging others. If you only view the negative side, we will not go anywhere. Please consider the performances or results that will happen by your cooperation and our administration. We are trying our utmost to do things that normal politics or democracy consistently cannot achieve in the past. Some laws took decades to consider and still has not been passed and some are out of date. Some agreements have not been signed because there were interests involved. Everyone knows that we must try and reduce these problems.

- The number 200, which is the number of members of the National Legislative Assembly, is not a quota. In fact, people are misunderstanding this. I do not want the word quota used as it is just a means for all sides to nominate people to the National Legislative Assembly. If we do not provide a number, we might be seeing thousands of nominations. So that is why a number was set. I did not use the word quota; I said 'nominate for consideration', how many names make it through is up to the selection committee to decide. If there are more or less

military officials than usual, then it is normal, as the current situation is not usual. If things proceed as usual, it might cause more conflict and fighting again.

- As for the operation of the NCPO during the second phase, the essence is on national reform which will lead to the final point of having a permanent government pursuant to the permanent Constitution to be drafted. Things have to proceed step by step. Please understand us and do not criticize so much. Please wait and see, today we are still living under irregular conditions.

- When we have a government, a Provisional Constitutional, and a cabinet, it may be viewed as a democracy too, albeit in a temporary Thai style democracy. But those foreign countries have been more accepting of this entry into the second phase. For the National Legislative Assembly, besides the factors of knowledge, ability, confidence, and trust, it is necessary to focus on the effectiveness, unity, and ability to respond to the main mission, which is achieving national reform within the short-term period of one year. Everyone should understand this. This is for the reforming of the 11 issues—the amendment of obsolete laws which hinder national administration, for instance, and the reforms on the bureaucratic system, education, laws, judicial system, public health, or other issues, 11 in all. Using the word 'other issues' implies that there may be more than 11 issues.

- The main mission in amending major laws concerning the 11 issues of national reform must be conducted carefully with the participation of all groups and sectors, without rushing the process. The National Reform Council will be responsible for seeking what to improve or fix, while the National Legislative Assembly will carry on the amendment of laws which will be beneficial to the nation and the public with the consensus of all groups and parties. Pending legislation should be passed expediently. New legislation or proposals can be introduced in the National Legislative Assembly.

- Discussions or new proposals on reform will be taken up at the 250-strong National Reform Council. The 250 members will be composed of 77 provincial representatives and 173 persons with expertise in the 11 areas of reform. Aside from the discussions in the Reform Council, there are Centers for Reconciliation and Reform that are set up in each province and area. Proposals can also be submitted through your representatives in these centers.

- This is the first preparation stage which will lead to Phase 2. Anyone can participate in the process of enacting laws or drafting of a new constitution. So please prepare for this. It is of little use if you prefer to stay out of the process on account of dislike or disagreement. He process has started and already stated in the provisional constitution. We must proceed accordingly. The NCPO will not influence the National Reform Council. It is a matter for you all to achieve. We will kick off with an introductory session on 9 August 2557 at the Army Club on Vibhavadee Rangsit Road. It will be hosted by the Ministry of Defence. I invite all stakeholders including representatives from the 11 areas of reform to attend to show our cooperative spirit in moving ahead on reforms.

Progress on the NCPO Operations

On the Economy:

- The overall consumer confidence level continues to improve. This is only an estimation or forecast. It depends on several factors such as global situations, wars and conflicts, situations in the West and the East. We have to also take into consideration global economics. The world is chaotic, thus we need to be prepared in case of emergency. I do not want to put the blame on anyone.

- **The consumer confidence in private and industrial sectors has begun to increase**. This is an estimation. The industry confidence index in June 2014 has increased to 88.4 from 85.1 in May, as the overall business operation is more convenient and flexible. The purchase orders in many industries, such as garment, sport wears and sport shoes, have increased. The 3-month forecast of the industry confidence index which indicates the forecasted trends in September, has increased from 101.0 in May to 101.9.

- **Investment sector** has shown a clear sign of improvement. There are 634 projects which applied for investment promotion via the Boaord of Investment (BOI) in the first half of the year with a total value of 337.4 billion baht. The number of projects applying for the investment promotion programme has been steadily increased. In June, the number of projects has reached its highest in 6 months which signals increasing confidence of investors. It is anticipated that the total value for 2014 will reach its target of 700 billion baht, as determined in July.

- BOI has recently approved 15 projects worth around 51.5 billion baht. There were mostly manufacturing industries, notably eco-car manufacturing. Eco cars will be important in the future as they are affordable and easy to maintain. These approvals are in addition to the 92 projects already approved since the new Board was set up. Consideration on other pending projects is expected to be completed within 3 months.

- **On the automobile industry**, the production of cars has decreased. It is a result of the first-car tax rebate scheme, which created false demand. When the scheme has been suspended, the turnover subsequently declined and led to the current problem which needs to be resolved.

- **The exports in June has increased** as compared to that of last year and in May 2014. The value of export in June 2014 has increased by 3.9 per cent after a steady decline during the previous 3 months. The export value amounts to around 19.8 billion US dollar. The export revenue in June increased by 13.5 per cent from that of last year and by 3.0 per cent from that in May. Export products have expanded in several sectors, including industrial products, agricultural products, and agro-industrial products.

- This month, agricultural product exports have expanded for the first time in 6 months based on an increase of important agricultural/agro-industrial product exports, such as rice, cassava products, vegetables, fresh fruits, frozen and processed fruits, and frozen and processed chicken, while the increasing industrial products are electrical appliances, car manufacturing, automobile parts and equipment, plastic granules and plastic products, and construction materials. The Fiscal Policy Office estimated that the annual export value will increase by 1.5 per cent, while the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board's estimation is 2 per cent. These numbers are only an estimation that can fluctuate, as they also depend on external economic factor.

- The NCPO has approved the 2014 government expenditure budget of 835.9 million baht from the federal budget for the construction and renovation of damaged roads in the 3 Southern border provinces. The road repair project will pioneer the use of natural rubber mixed with asphalt which will result in higher cost, but the durability and longevity will be 2 times longer than that of normal materials. This will reduce the cost of maintenance and increase domestic rubber consumption, as well as help resolve the problem of rubber's oversupply. The NCPO has ordered the Department of Rural Roads, Ministry of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study on the application of domestically produced rubber for the construction and renovation of roads in other areas. Bricks and rubber used for road pavement have to be developed to increase their values and to avoid price deflation. Rubber has also been used for other activities, such as to make paving bricks or used as raw materials for indoor soccer fields, etc. Moreover, the Ministry of Commerce will implement the NCPO's instruction immediately.

- **On the problem of rubber prices**, the NCPO regarded this as an important issue and is currently working on the matter. This is a recurring problem, as well as the problems related to rice, sugar cane, and cassava, that usually be resolved by subsidies. However, the problem cannot be resolved due to the discontinuity of policy. The problem solving process needs to follow the roadmap – be they immediate or long-term. Nevertheless, farmers also need to cooperate with us. They need to plan their cultivation and use zoning techniques to avoid excess supply. We are addressing immediate problems, but cooperation from all farmers is needed for the systematic solution of the problems. Everyone must share his or her profits, such as those related to fertilisers, to help reduce the production cost.

- The state has to limit the areas of rubber plantation to prevent further forest encroachment and avoid further complications. Farmers need to experiment in cultivating plants that yield results, and need to cooperate with the state for the benefit of everyone. Those who sell sprouts and fertilisers should cut down the prices and refrain from selling fake fertilisers. The use of organic fertiliser has already become a national agenda. Every agricultural sector – be it manufacturing, transporting, processing or marketing sector – needs to cooperate to move forward together. People should not only seek to gain profits, and the focus on populism cannot be continued. We have to look at both international and domestic market mechanisms, and help those with low income.

- The NCPO has already ordered relevant agencies to set out sustainable measures, such as designating suitable zones for rubber plantation to prevent further forest trespassing. Our assistance will also take into consideration the fact that some farmers do not possess their own land.

- **The problem of fodder corn** has occurred since early 2014 and continued unresolved until August 2014, causing grievances to farmers. The NCPO has endorsed and approved the draft Announcement of the Ministry of Commerce on corn fodder importation as agreed under the ASEAN FTA and WTO framework to solve the problem of corn shortage, scarcity and high price, as well as to support those who invested in corn growing industry in neighbouring countries.

- On Monday, 21 July 2014, I have assigned Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, advisor to the NCPO, as a special envoy to deliver messages to Chinese President Xi Jinping via the Chinese Vice President at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to strengthen bilateral relations on trade and investment. We learned that China is willing to help seek markets for Thai agricultural products, such as rice, rubber, fruits, and others, which will be discussed further based on the principle of mutual trust, equity and fairness.

- **On rice problem**, on 28 July 2014, General Chatchai Satikalya, NCPO deputy head of the Economic Cluster has reported that the Committee on Rice Management and Policy has endorsed additional strategies for rice production in Thailand which consists of production and marketing strategies aiming at improving the quality of rice so that it can be sold at decent price.

- The sub-committee on the inspection of rice stockpiles reported that the sub-committee has inspected 1,290 out of 1,787 rice storages or 72 per cent and found that 80 per cent are of good quality; while only 10 per cent are of bad quality and will need to be further examined. These are actual figures from our inspection. We inspect stockpiles of rice in order to continue with disbursement. If the actual numbers are not correlated with the official numbers, we need to take a look at root causes. The inspection of rice is complicated and takes time to determine any related wrongdoings.

- As for the problems of corruption in the rice-pledging scheme, there are many processes such as the pledging process, certificate letters, rice stocking, cost of container rental, and sales quotas and prices. These are all being inspected to determine the corruption in each process. Some people such as a person responsible in keeping track on the amount of the rice, a person responsible for the sales of rice, or a person responsible for the rice pledging process, may have to be responsible individually for any mismanagement or corruption. However, some people may be responsible for the overall process. This will be determined in the legal proceedings. The Office of the National-Anti Corruption Commission is investigating these issues. Again, please understand that we are inspecting rice stocks for disbursement. Please also do not criticise or be sceptical of the figures. We have been inspecting every pile but the rice sacks in each pile have to be chosen randomly, as there are a large number of rice sacks.

- **On financial and fiscal discipline**, the NCPO is aware that such discipline must be ensured. Some people have doubts on how the NCPO disburse the budget. Although the NCPO has approved many projects, the NCPO has not spent the money. It is the responsibility of ministries and departments to use such money for their projects and operation. We have to maintain the discipline and avoid public debt. The NCPO acknowledged the second amendment of the plan for administration of public debt for 2014 fiscal budget year which reduced the budget to approximately 6.3 billion baht. The cut was a result of the Monitoring and Auditing Committee on Fiscal Expenditures report which found that some projects are unworthy and suspicious and do not truly contribute to benefit of the people.

- However, if we suspend all projects, there will be no investment. We need to look at each project individually to see what can be done or adjusted, in order for it to be fair and accurate, and no one can take advantage of it. This is a difficult task, but if no one gain benefit from this, it should be controllable. There are many steps involved; therefore, people in every step have to be vigilant and inform the NCPO of any misconduct. The NCPO has continued with the investment in the infrastructure system, procurement of public buses, maintenance vehicles, and locomotives. These are urgent tasks, as they are long overdue. We are proceeding with whatever can be done but it must be done with transparency.

On Security:

- This week, the NCPO has welcomed the Chief of Singapore Army on an official visit to Thailand on the occasion of assuming office, with an aim to strengthen relations on security, military cooperation, and joint military training between the two countries. The Chief of Singapore Army has reaffirmed long-standing relation and friendship between both countries, and has shown understanding of the situation in Thailand. Additionally, he has also expressed his appreciation to the Royal Thai Army for continually providing support on military cooperation. The Singapore Army stands ready to cooperate with Thailand in all areas to allow for sustainable development and stability in both countries, as well as to further cooperation on entering the ASEAN Community in the future.

- On 29 July 2014, the NCPO has welcomed General Tea Banh, Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and other high-level military officials from every army force as guests of the Ministry of Defence, with an aim to strengthen military relation between Thailand and Cambodia, as well as to exchange opinions and further military cooperation. During the meeting, the NCPO has expressed its deep gratitude for His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamoni's royal grace and extended its appreciation to His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen in the granting of a royal pardon for Mr.Veera Somkwamkid. We discussed about the close friendship between the two countries as well as with other ASEAN countries. We promised to transcend the joint border conflicts and develop cooperation on trade and investment. We have plans for the establishment of Special Economic Zones along the border of the two countries as well as with

other neighbouring countries. We share a 5,600 kilometers long border with our neighbouring countries which can connect to other countries in the region. China and India through the northern part, Singapore and Malaysia in south and Lao PDR in the northeast and Myanmar in the northwest. Thailand is in the center of this connectivity. We need to utilize our location for maximum benefits. Many countries have admired the work Thailand is doing during this transition period.

- **On the progress in countering problems of migrant workers and human trafficking**, the Policy Committee on Foreign Workers under the Security Cluster has been continually addressing the problems. The following facilitation centres have been opened, namely, the Facilitation Centres for the Return of Cambodian workers in 4 provinces (Sa Kaeo, Chantaburi, Trat, and Surin), and 6 One Stop Service Centres for the Registration of Migrant Workers in Bangkok and 22 additional Centres in coastal provinces such as Krabi, Chantaburi, Chumphon, Trat, Trang, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Narathiwat, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Pattani, Phang Nga, Phuket, Ranong, Satun and Samut Songkhram. 354,617 migrant workers have been registered, which can be categorised into approximately 120,000 Burmese workers, 170,000 Cambodian workers, and 50,000 Laotian workers. Additional One Stop Service Centres for the Registration of Migrant Workers will be promptly opened in all provinces. Next week, 53 additional Centres will be opened. Migrant workers have to be registered at the Centres by 31 October 2014.

- On 23-24 July 2014, Chief of Staff of the Army as President of the Policy Committee on Foreign Workers has visited the One Stop Service Centres for the Registration of Migrant Workers in 3 provinces, which are Nakhon Si Thammarat, Ranong, and Songkhla. The overall operation has been successful, and migrant workers are satisfied.

- **On providing assistance for approximately 27,000 Thai workers in Israel**, 4,276 of whom are working near the Gaza Strip, the NCPO has closely and continually coordinated with the Israeli Government in evacuating those workers out of the conflict zones into safe areas. The NCPO has also determined measures in evacuating all Thai workers in case of emergency. The minority of Thai workers has requested to travel back to Thailand, while most of them continue to stay in the safe locations to observe the situation. They should be sympathised as they need to earn their living for their families. Nevertheless, they need to be safe. The NCPO has instructed relevant officials to closely look after the workers.

- **On the situation in Libya**, the Royal Thai Embassy will open an evacuation centre for Thai nationals working in Libya in Djerba, Tunisia, situated 170 km from the Tripoli border, today's afternoon onwards. In the first phase, the Ambassador will closely monitor the situation. Thai nationals can evacuate to Djerba, or gather at the Royal Thai Embassy in Tripoli. As for the operation in Thailand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will set up a monitoring and assistance centre, under the supervision of the Director-General of the Department of South Asian, Middle East, and African Affairs, and under direct supervision of the

security monitoring centre, namely, the Disaster Relief Centre of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters. The Royal Thai Air Force's C-130 aircrafts have been prepared in case of emergency. The NCPO truly hope that the situation in both countries will return to normal in the near future. Civil war always causes negative impacts. People in the same country are fighting against one another. We are lucky that we this situation has not happened in Thailand.

- **On the implementation of foreign agreements**, the NCPO has agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Intellectual Property and European Patent Office, conforming to the objectives of the draft Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). Also, this is an important issue which Thailand pushes for in the negotiations of the EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Ministry of Commerce has been instructed to thoroughly consider items that require copyright registration such as those in the areas of arts and culture, agriculture, local wisdom and research that is beneficial to Thailand. Several items were innovations by Thai people, but we have not developed them further. Instead, they were developed by foreigners and were sold to us. Therefore, we need to register all items as soon as possible. At the same time, we should not illegally copy other people's ideas. We should come up with our own ideas.

- The NCPO has approved the Joint Statements of Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting in view of confirming our intention to continue the cooperation and implementation of the 2014-2017 Action Plan concerning ASEAN Connectivity, sustainability, and people-centred development. Apart from economic issues, the NCPO has instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to additionally consider the way in which all member countries will equally benefit from the utilisation of water resources in the Mekong River, in particular on the construction of dams in each upper-Mekong country, which may cause the flooding or drought that affect people in the lower-Mekong countries. Issues regarding human rights and environment should be taken into consideration, as water is a vital source of life. We should ensure equitable access to water for all people.

- **On the NCPO's performance in maintaining peace and order**, the arrest and confiscation concerning criminal activities nationwide from 26 June to 29 July 2014 have resulted in the confiscation of approximately 1,700 war weapons, long guns, and pistols, 10,000 bullets, 45 hand grenades, and 19 grenades to be used with launchers; and the arrest of 2,774 offenders. With regard to 8 violent incidents concerning 12 alleged offenders, the confiscated weapons are 11 machine guns, 3 long guns and shotguns, 21 handguns, 1 RPG rocket launcher, 24 bombs in various types, 19 M79 bullets, 3 RPG rockets and other ammunition. There are also the continual arrests of drug-related criminals, gamblers, and those involved in illegal logging and natural resource exploitation.

- From 22 May to 25 July 2014, the noteworthy operations are 12,782 cases concerning casinos and illegal gambling; confiscation of approximately 4,000 gambling machines (horse racing machines, electric machines, pinball machines); various cards, Hi-Lo gambling equipment and illegal lotteries; 66,657 drug-related cases – involving 70,635 alleged offenders and confiscated drugs which are 83 million amphetamine tablets, around 1,000 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, 369 kilograms of heroin, 22,644 kilograms of dried cannabis, 38,738 kilograms of Kratom, 109 kilograms of opium, 31 kilograms of cocaine, 229,850 tablets of pseudoephedrine tablets, and 334 of cough medicines; 987 cases concerning illegal logging and natural resource exploitation, which resulted in the confiscation of 4,197 cubic metres of Rosewood worth 630 million Baht, 580 cubic metres of Teak worth 15 million Baht, and 1,904 cubic metres of Kraya Loei wood worth 29 million Baht.

- **As for the arrests and prosecution**, we cannot pick and choose which criminals or activities. It all depends on information we received and the investigation that will lead to subsequent legal proceedings. We do not take sides as have been criticised. The legal officials have done everything in accordance with facts to ensure that the judicial process is not damaged. Anyone who does not want to be arrested, should not conduct such criminal activities. As for the judicial process, please avoid prejudging the ruling of the courts. Any law violators should be prosecuted to ensure fairness. The NCPO has been very careful on this matter, as should everyone.

- **On addressing the situation in southern border provinces**, first of all, the NCPO and security agencies are working together but people are still at risk. We would like everyone to understand the conflicting issues that the insurgents have claimed to be reasons of attack on officials. The issues concern the identity, religion, unfairness, historical background, and ethnicity. Such issues are easy to be used in provoking people to fight to achieve the freedom and liberty they aspire.

- When weapons are used in the violence, it will lead to law enforcement and a clash with state officials including administrative officials and police resulting in injuries and death. Conflicts have dramatically escalated such that local officials in the areas are unable to take control of the situation and the state has to increase the use of military force, as in principle where there are is a situation that poses a danger to peoples' lives, every country must resort to the use of security force. To say that the fighting will stop without military deployment is not based on rational thought which I believe the whole world would think the same.

- The reason we need to deploy more military forces is because the local forces are not sufficient to monitor such a large area. The southern border provinces cover 37 districts with more than 2,000 villages and officials have been sent to all locations, where there have been both high and low rates of violence. State officials have to work in the southern border provinces not because of money and allowance; no one wants to leave home, but it is the military's responsibility to protect more than 2,000,000 people in 37 districts with over 2,000 villages. If there

are loopholes in certain locations, insurgents will instigate violence in those areas. This requires thousands of officials to work in the areas, for example, at school. How many schools are there? How long is each road and how many roads are there? How many locations prone to violence are there? How many teachers are there? The military and the police have been sent to those areas. Certainly, there must be some weak points despite plans and military exercises. 30,000 to 40,000 military officers have been dispatched to the 37 districts. The proportion of the number of soldiers to the number of people living there with approximately 1,800,000 to 1,900,000 Thai Muslims is not high. There were claims that military officers working in the areas create unrest, causing dissatisfaction among people. This is not the right idea. In fact, with more military officers, more arrests will be made. When there are more clashes, the insurgents claim that there are human rights violations, though we have enforced the law and committed no violations. For separatist movement, it is difficult to find evidence and the insurgents use strategies to cause unrest.

• Our problems should be solved by our country. The insurgents intend to cause fear, make officials unable to carry out their task and portray the country as a failed state in order to gain support from other countries. Media are concerned about the issue and the safety of people and military officers there. So am I.

• When there are losses of lives, their families will have to be taken care of. It is a bond between military officers, between police officers. I regret every injuries and deaths because I have sent those military officers there.

• We are operating in a large area where there is normal traffic and the curfew is not strictly imposed there as the people in southern Thailand mostly work in rubber plantations and have to work at night or at dawn. If the curfew is strictly imposed, they will face hardship. Attacks have occurred only in certain areas – towns and forests. It is problematic for officials to distinguish the criminals from other people because everyone still wants to have freedom while enjoying safety.

• Any report of news and violent pictures need to be done with caution. News reports should not be broadcasted repeatedly as this will help provide news coverage space for the insurgents to cause international pressure. What we can do are strengthening military forces, dispatching more military officers to the areas, increasing intelligence measures and enforcing laws. Armed military officers must exercise precaution while working among people. If there are more restrictions on their freedom to live their lives as normal and freedom of movement, people will face hardship.

• The opposing side has been using a combination of political, military and public relation strategies. They have recruited village leaders to obstruct operation of the officials. Our strategy is based on the advice of His Majesty the King – "Understand, Reach Out, and Develop, and the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, in expediting development in the areas.

• We have categorized the areas according to the security levels. High security areas require reinforcement of security personnel. For low security areas we will focus on promotion of development work. For critical areas where there is still violence we will strengthen development to create understanding among the local people so that they will come out and help with development.

• However everything takes a long time and over many phases. We are also now in phase 2. The first phase was to reinforce security forces, phase 2 is to adjust the operation and phase 3 is preparations for transferring responsibility to the regular security force.

• So we need to be patient. How we can minimize the injuries and loss of lives, both citizens and security officials. I ask those people who commit these attacks that they cited religion for separatist movements but why the increasing number of deaths of Thai Muslims. So those instigators do not care for whichever religion. I think the situation cannot remain as it is and the problem must be resolved.

• At the same time there are some instigators who fled to neighbouring countries, through natural routes such as mountains and river which is quite easy. There are no fences. So we may have to consider erecting fences or using modern technology in safeguarding our borders which requires a big budget. We are still using personnel to monitor the 5,600 km border with about 80,000 troops risking their lives everyday. All the military, police, civil servants and citizens stationed along the borders are all Thai people, some are Buddhist and some are Muslim.

• On peace negotiations, there have been continuous talks and we need to be more prepared. We need to find out who are the actual leaders of the insurgents. We already have information that there are main groups and other minor groups. We are holding negotiations with the main groups, but other minors groups still continue to use force. The groups that we have negotiated try to put pressure on us and want to reach outcomes that they desire. We have to attempt to hold joint negotiations with all groups covering all dimensions – development, ceasefire, laws and issues concerning injustice by setting up several committees to expedite negotiations. Currently, we are using politics in taking the lead over military to create understanding. There are nine strategies that have been implemented since 2012. The military does not resort to the use of weapons as the only means. The military is resourceful and has been involved in the operations from the beginning, so military personnel know how to carry out their tasks in terms of development, politics, creating understanding and discussions to find solutions – recommendations put forth by the military. There are three main pillars involved including the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center, Internal Security Operations Command, and relevant ministries. There are also three levels of administration including the policy level, the policy implementation level and the operational level. Political approach takes priority over military approach and not the other way around. This is what I would like you to understand. This process

will take time. Some people have asked why Order No. 66/23 is not adopted. This is because Section 21 of the Internal Security Act is in place.

- There are differences between the measures we used in one place and another. Some measures might work in one place but not in another place. We are trying our best to solve the problem such as considering projects such as "Bringing People Back Home". The NCPO has been putting much effort in initiating measures, but we must seek cooperation and brainstorm for ideas from all sectors. We do not simply impose the measures without asking for people's ideas.

- I would like to ask for your understanding, support and cooperation and would like everyone to be vigilant, to cooperate, to sacrifice their convenience, to resist those who have infiltrated into all communities. Apart from the separatist issue, there are problems of illegal acts, drugs, migrant workers, illegal trade in petrol and other clandestine operations. What concerns the NCPO is that there are increasing incidents of innocent Muslims being attacked. It does not favour anyone to claim that the authorities are responsible because there is no reason for the authorities to do so. We only want to keep everyone safe. We want development to take hold, education for a learning society and people to have jobs. All of us are Thai people, no matter what religions we uphold. We can live together despite our religious differences.

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On Social Psychology and Environment:

- Over the past 2 months, the NCPO has received approximately 20,000 complaints and has solved 86 per cent of the problems. Over 3,000 problems are being addressed. The NCPO also ordered related government agencies to expedite their efforts to solve the problems and notify the public of the results.

- The NCPO approved the draft announcement of the Ministry of Commerce on the categorization of volatile alkyl nitrite as a restricted item that requires a license to import into the Kingdom of Thailand. The Volatile Substances Control Committee endorsed the inclusion of 6 volatile matter items in this list. The volatile substances cause negative influence over Thai youth and harm to the body – glaucoma, a weakened respiratory system, abnormalities of erythrocytes, anemia, a weakened immune system and etc. or death. In addition, the NCPO ordered the Ministry of Commerce and related government agencies to consider measures to control other types of narcotics that cause negative influence over our youths and current social problems, which cannot be curbed by existing rules and regulations/ legal provisions, such as the use of baraku and alcoholic drinks sold by street hawkers. The police and relevant government authorities need to monitor this problem.

• **On the reorganization of society** with regard to areas for selling products, street stalls, orderly management of vans and motorcycles, I would like to thank you – fellow citizens – for your understanding, cooperation and sacrifice for other people. You might face difficulty in the beginning of these changes. However, this is done to create order in society and bring benefits to all parties. People should have self-discipline and self-respect for the laws so that this problem can be sustainably resolved. We appeal to everyone to abide by the law and for law enforcement officers to enforce the laws with righteousness.

• **On people's livelihoods and income**, we will not do anything to negatively affect the people, especially on the low-income and underprivileged people. The urgent measures at the moment is to expedite approval of 12 draft Acts, which will be presented to the National Legislative Assembly immediately after the opening of a parliamentary session such as the draft of the act on the re-adoption of the gratuity and pension rights in accordance with the Gratuity and Pension Fund for Official Act B.E. 2494 (1951). The purpose of the draft act is to allow Government Pension Fund (GPF) to re-adopt the gratuity and pension rights of government officials to lessen their burden and reduce difficulties facing government officials and pensioners who are members of GPF in the long term. The draft of the Social Welfare Act B.E. has been amended to cover the rights of temporary employees of the government. The draft of the Act on the Protection of Helpless People provides that a committee on the protection of helpless people is set up to formulate policies and guidelines for protecting helpless people and to establish a foster home for the helpless in order to assist those in need and take care of those who are homeless and do not have sufficient income to sustain themselves.

• **On education**, based on complaints regarding the system of quality assessment for education of Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), the NCPO has sought cooperation from the ONESQA in putting off the fourth round of indicator assessment which the ONESQA agreed on and revising procedures/ standard indicators of educational quality assessment to be in line with the Thai educational context, groups/ types of universities and distinctive characteristics of each university. The changes made should not create a burden for teachers who have to devote their time to class preparation, not to administrative work. Recommendations and guidelines for solving the problems must be proposed to the cabinet after the formation of a cabinet for consideration and approval before the next assessment.

Other Issues of Public concern:

• **As for the media**, I would like to thank media associations for your assistance in strengthening morality of each media organization. The NCPO has no intention to obstruct any media but we would like to ask the media to follow the rules and uphold ethics, and develop the quality and vision of all kinds of media to reduce conflicts, to respect each other more, and not to make any damaging accusations. Constructive comments will not cause any problems.

• **On infrastructure development**, there may be some lingering misunderstandings as implementation of such projects requires many steps and processes which will take several years to complete. Approval for implementation does not mean immediate action. There must first be a transparent plan of action that considers timeframe, procurement, state participation, private sector participation, public participation and appropriate budget allocation that does not create more public debt, disrupt the national budget in the long run, or deviate from the fiscal discipline of the country. All this will require careful planning so that there is connectivity between land transport, water transport, and air transport especially our road and railway networks, including shipping and ports; and that transportation services for people, goods, and services can be provided to the public at every level both domestically and internationally.

• We should develop a integrated network of freight transportation, power connections and various modes public transportation in the country that can also connect with our neighboring countries and future expansion to the region. In this aspect no reference has been made to any foreign investment grants. It is only in the planning stage and we have only approved the plans.

• **Regarding the dual track railway and the elevated railway**, there are two key areas to consider in how to make better use of the current system and to reap more benefits from them: the 1 metre-wide track rail network and Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang/Utapao airports; and connecting to or expanding the rapid transit system and the airport link to be able to travel to other tourist destinations such as Pattaya, Chonburi and the Eastern region. We have requested the Ministry of Transport to adjust such Plans so that they can be carried out more swiftly and prudently, otherwise connecting to other regions cannot be successful. Repair and expansion of the existing 1 metre-wide track rail network is still necessary as they are still in use within the ASEAN region. However as all countries will eventually change to use the 1.43 metre-wide track railway in the future, the NCPO's plans will therefore include repairing the existing 1 metre-wide track network, creating dual 1 metre-wide tracks, and developing a 1.43 metre-wide track network on necessary routes in order to prepare for connecting to China and ASEAN countries who have plans to expand 1.43 metre-wide tracks in the future, and to allow for more goods (the 1.43 metre-track allows more weight to be carried) to be transported and at higher speed. This will be incrementally implemented as it is not possible to create all new lines at once as this will require a very high budget.

• **The NCPO has monitored the developments in the improvement and remedy of problems within various State Owned Enterprises (SOEs)**. Thank you to the preceding managerial/executive committees for their cooperation and for the opportunity in allowing us to correct several problems and make key improvements, and thank you to the newly established managerial/executive committees for having the determination to move forward with developing such SOEs so that they can provide better services to the public to bring benefit to all and for the country. Some problems have been accumulated for more than 10 years and it will take some time to resolve. Certainly, they cannot be resolved in 3

months and I ask you to be patient. At the moment the various SOEs are in the process of reviving their businesses by developing their internal management structure and practices to be more effective and more transparent; an example being the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) who has swiftly enhanced safety measures for passengers, raised standards of service quality, and improvised debt management and use of resources to maximize benefits such as real estate owned by the SRT.

- **On privileges and benefits provided to political officials**, the NCPO does not intend to revoke any privileges but would like to adjust them to be in line with the civil service system. It should be similar to the civil service system which is based on years of service and certain calculation factors in order to create fairness and reduce conflicts. This issue will be discussed further once the new government is in place. I reaffirm that the NCPO does not revoke anything, but only adjust to make it better.

- **On preventing and thwarting corruption**, I have repeated this many times. Whoever still asks for bribes should stop doing that now. We will continue to arrest more wrongdoers. There should not be any requests for grafts or protection rackets at this moment. Especially if such requests come from police or military officers, please report to the NCPO and we will arrest them first. I urge my fellow Thai citizen to be careful not to fall victims to such wrongdoers.

- I would like to thank all the encouragement and the positive and negative comments from fellow countrymen and the media. I am grateful on behalf of all civil servants, police and military officers who have worked together in pushing forward with national reform and solve people's problems in accordance with the planned Roadmap. I ask all of you to join us in moving forward with reforming Thailand to rapidly bring back happiness to all Thai people.

- A matter of great joy in the upcoming days is the **auspicious occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Anniversary** on 12 August 2014. The NCPO and related agencies will hold celebratory events during 9 - 12 August 2014 at Ambara Gardens, the Royal Plaza, and Sanam Luang.

- I would like to invite all Thais to join in the various activities to be held as follows:

  - Events involving Buddhist rituals include
    - the casting of a Buddha image in accordance with Her Majesty's day of birth to commemorate Her Majesty's 84th Birthday Anniversary to be completed by 12 August 2016.
    - the ceremony of chanting Buddha's mantra and meditation to bless Their Majesties on 5 August 2014 at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha.
    - the ceremony of chanting Buddha's mantra and practice the dharma throughout the country during 8 - 12 August 2014.

- Showing of documentaries in tribute to Her Majesty on 5, 10, 11 August 2014.
- Commemorative activities at Ambara Gardens, Dusit Palace, on 9 - 10 August 2014.
- The Candle-lit Tribute Paying Ceremony on 12 August 2014.
- Provincial commemorative events on 12 August 2014.
- The signing of tributes and well-wishes messages in the morning of 12 August 2014.

- I have taken up quite a long time today. There are many issues that I would like to clarify for your understanding. In meeting with you, I am the speaker most of the time, but I received a huge amount of feedback from you through the media, discussions, and letters. I read on all feedback and tried to respond through the programme. Consider this a two-way communication. Thank you for your cooperation and solidarity as well as your good wishes. However, we still have many problems to solve and much more to do.
- Thank you and good night.

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