

Speech of
His Excellency Professor Pornpatch Wichitcholchai
President of the National Legislative Assembly
at the Opening of the Deliberation
“On the Path to Reform”
On Wednesday, the 3rd of December B.E. 2557, (2014)
at the Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok

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His Excellencies Ambassadors,
His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Honorable Members of the National Reform Council,
Honorable Members of the National Legislative Assembly,
Honourable Secretary – General of Inter - parliamentary Union,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Legislative Assembly, I have a great pleasure and a privilege to be invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to deliver my speech and to declare the official opening of the Deliberation “On the Path to Reform” this afternoon.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to admire all concerned parties who collaborated in conducting this Deliberation “On the Path to Reform” which is highly benefit to Thailand during its consequential transition. It also provides a good opportunity for exchanging

knowledge and experiences in order to enhance the reformed lesson of our nation through sustainable reconciliation process.

Currently, Thailand is in the period of national reform toward a fully completed democratic country. To reach such end, the National Council for Peace and Order has drawn a three steps of the roadmap as follows:

1. Step one focuses on promoting national reconciliation;
2. Step two focuses on national reform;
3. Step three aims at a real democratic general election.

Thailand today is in the step two of the roadmap since the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand (interim) B.E. 2557 (2014) has been promulgated and the State administration is under five principle organs who playing their vital roles in achieving its national reform namely:

1. The National Council for Peace and Order;
2. The Cabinet;
3. The National Legislative Assembly;
4. The National Reform Council;
5. The Constitutional Drafting Committee.

The five principle organs are compared to the five rivers to integrate as one river flows and leading to step three of the roadmap. That is a sustainable democratic administration.

Under the interim Constitution, the National Legislative Assembly performs its duties as the House of Representative, the Senate and the National Assembly. It is the main organ for its national legislation. The enactment of laws is regarded as a major mechanism contributing to the success of national reform. Such reform would be successful if the laws of Thailand are at least its characteristics as follows:

1. Justice;

2. The Rule of Law;
3. Respecting right and freedom of people;
4. Not making any conflicts but enhancing its people reconciliation and
5. Reducing social inequality.

This National Legislative Assembly has been designed to ensure and devotes its all efforts to enact laws in accordance with the mentioned above principles, which of course are in accordance with international standard and the concept of natural law.

Moreover, the interim constitution provides duty to the National Reform Council to conduct the suggestion concerning the national reform and submit to the National Legislative Assembly. Those suggestions will be taken into account during the bills consideration of the National Legislative Assembly.

In addition, the National Legislative Assembly also gives top priority to the public participation in the laws making by opened opportunity for them to express their opinions directly to the Assembly according to the

concept of the national reform based on the basis of understanding and acceptance from the people. We always realize that although we are here not by the election of the people, but we will work for the people. Voices of people are strong pillar of our parliament.

Another main principle of the step two is to draft a new permanent constitution which will be an important foundation for step three.

At this step, the National Legislative Assembly has taken part in constitutional drafting process by nominated five persons to be members of the Constitution Drafting Committee and proposed opinions and suggestions on drafting constitution to the Constitution Drafting Committee.

Another function to contribute to effective national reform is to create understanding of people and to create a correct

understanding with other countries because the national reform is required to be based on understanding and acceptance of domestic and international community. In this regard, the National Council for Peace and Order supports to strengthen the cordial relationship with neighboring countries in every aspects, as well as promoting the exchange visits between executives of the countries. May I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to everyone, especially to the President and the Secretary General of the IPU for your kind understanding the real situation of Thailand.

As I mentioned above, to achieve its goal the National Legislative Assembly could not perform alone. The exceptional cooperation and interdependence of the said five organs is required as all five rivers have to integrate as one river flow to lead the country to the national reform and finally to a fully democratic regime in the very near future.

On behalf of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand and on my own, I would like to inform you that we commit to work hard to participate in the national reform for moving the country towards a sustainable democracy.

Last but not least, I do wish the deliberation today afternoon a very success and all participants could receive useful knowledge and experience as well.

Thank you.

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