



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

President's Office

No. 33/PO

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

On the Promulgation of the Law on the National Assembly

Pursuant to Chapter V, Article 53, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic which provides for the promulgation of the Constitution and of laws that have been adopted by the National Assembly;

Pursuant to Resolution No. 26/NA, dated 6 May 2003, of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic which adopted the Law on the National Assembly; and

Pursuant to Letter No. 15/SC, dated 9 May 2003, of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

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

Article 1. The Law on the National Assembly is hereby promulgated.

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

Vientiane, 29 May 2003

President of the Lao People's Democratic
Republic

[Seal and Signature]

Khamtay SIPHANDONE



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

National Assembly

No. 01/NA
6 May 2003

LAW ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Chapter 1 General Provisions

Article 1. (New) Purpose of the Law on the National Assembly

The Law on the National Assembly defines the principles, rules relating to the organisation, and activities of the National Assembly, in order to strengthen State authority, [and] to create a State that belongs to the people, [is managed] by the people, and for the benefit of the people.

Article 2. Status and Role of the National Assembly

The National Assembly is the representative of the rights, powers and interests of the multi-ethnic people. The National Assembly is also the legislative branch that has the right to make decisions on fundamental issues of the country, [and] to oversee the activities of the executive organs, the people's courts and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

Article 3. Rights and Duties of the National Assembly

The National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To prepare, adopt or amend the Constitution;
2. To consider, adopt, amend or abrogate the laws;
3. To consider and adopt the determination, amendment or abrogation of duties and taxes;
4. To consider and adopt strategic plans for socio-economic development and the State budget;
5. To elect or remove the President, the Vice-President and members of the National Assembly Standing Committee, to establish or dissolve the committees of the National Assembly, to elect or remove the chairmen of

the committees, the Director of the Cabinet of the National Assembly¹, vice-chairmen of the committees of the National Assembly, [and to] establish or dissolve the International Parliamentary Committee of the National Assembly based on the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee;

6. To elect or remove the President and Vice-President of the State based on the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee;
7. To consider and approve the proposed appointment or removal of the Prime Minister based on the recommendation of the President of the State;
8. To consider and approve the organisational structure of the government and the appointment, transfer or removal of members of the government based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister;
9. To elect or remove the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor² based on the recommendation of the President of the State;
10. To decide on the establishment or dissolution of the ministries, ministry-equivalent organisations, provinces and cities, and to determine boundaries of provinces and cities based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister;
11. To decide on granting amnesties;
12. To decide on the ratification of or [withdrawal from] treaties and agreements signed with foreign countries in accordance with the laws;
13. To decide on matters of war or peace;
14. To oversee the observance and implementation of the Constitution and laws, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget;
15. To propose to the government, the People's Supreme Court, and the Office of the Public Prosecutor to repeal their regulations that are inconsistent with the Constitution and laws;
16. To liaise with foreign countries and the International Parliamentary Union; [and]
17. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided by the laws.

¹ The “Cabinet of the National Assembly” is also referred to as the “Office of the National Assembly”.

² The term “Public Prosecutor” has been chosen because it is the English term commonly used in Laos for this title/institution. Other common translations include “people’s prosecutor” and “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. In this Article, the reference is to the person (i.e. the top prosecutor in the country) rather than the office.

Article 4. Principle Underlying the Functions of the National Assembly

The National Assembly is organized and functions in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. It conducts its work through meetings and takes decisions by a majority of votes.

Article 5. Term of the National Assembly

The term of office of each National Assembly [legislature]³ is five years from the opening session of the incumbent National Assembly [legislature] to that of the new National Assembly [legislature].

The election of a new National Assembly legislature must be completed no later than sixty days prior to the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent National Assembly [legislature].

In the case of war or any other circumstance that obstructs the election, an [incumbent] National Assembly [legislature] may extend its term of office but it must carry out the election of the new National Assembly [legislature] no later than six months after the situation returns to normal.

If deemed necessary by the vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the National Assembly attending the session, such [incumbent] National Assembly [legislature] shall carry out the election of [new] members prior to the expiration of its term.

Article 6. Budget of the National Assembly

The National Assembly has its own budget as part of the State budget to fund the performance of its activities and duties.

Chapter 2 Sessions of the National Assembly

Article 7. Sessions of the National Assembly

There are three types of National Assembly sessions⁴:

1. Opening Session;
2. Ordinary Session; [and]

³ The term “National Assembly” is used interchangeably in the original to mean the “institution of the National Assembly” and the “body of legislators at any one time”. Only where the literal translation – “National Assembly” – may not be clear from the context have the translators inserted [legislature] to indicate that the latter meaning is intended.

⁴ The term “session” is used interchangeably to mean “a meeting of National Assembly members” and “the body of legislators assembled at a meeting of National Assembly members”.

3. Extraordinary Session.

Article 8. Opening Session of the National Assembly⁵

The opening session of the National Assembly is convened no later than sixty days after the election of a new National Assembly. The President of the previous National Assembly presides and guides the opening session until the President of the new National Assembly is elected.

The opening session of the National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To hear the President of the National Election Committee report to the session on the results of the election and the confirmation of the status of the members of the National Assembly;
2. To elect the President, Vice-President and the members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly;
3. To establish the committees of the National Assembly;
4. To elect the chairmen of the committees, the Director of the Cabinet and the vice-chairmen of the committees of the National Assembly;
5. To approve the establishment of the International Parliamentary Committee of the National Assembly;
6. To elect the President and the Vice-President of the State;
7. To consider and approve the organisational structure of the government, and the appointment, transfer or removal of members of the government;
8. To elect the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor;
9. To consider and approve the work programs of the National Assembly; [and]
10. To consider and approve other issues which are considered important and necessary.

Article 9. Ordinary Session of the National Assembly⁶

The National Assembly convenes its ordinary session twice a year. The first ordinary session, which takes place between March and April, and the second ordinary session, which takes place between September and October, are convened by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

⁵ Even though it may not be apparent from the text in this law, a reference to “the opening session” is not a reference to a single session of a National Assembly legislature but to a certain kind of session of a National Assembly legislature. The same is true for “ordinary session” and “extraordinary session”.

⁶ *Ibid.*

The ordinary session of the National Assembly which takes place between March and April has the following duties:

1. To consider and adopt new laws and amendments of laws;
2. To hear and consider reports of the government on the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget for the first half of the year and to consider and approve adjustments, if any, to the socio-economic development plan and the State budget of the government for the second half of the year;
3. To hear and consider reports of the People's Supreme Court and the [Office of the] Supreme Public Prosecutor on the implementation of the Constitution and laws during the first half of the year;
4. To hear, consider and approve reports on activities of the National Assembly Standing Committee during the first half of the year; [and]
5. To consider and approve other issues which are considered important and necessary.

The ordinary session of the National Assembly which takes place between September and October has the following duties:

1. To hear and consider the annual reports of the government on the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget;
2. To hear, consider and approve the socio-economic development plan and the State budget of the government for the following year;
3. To hear and consider reports from the People's Supreme Court and the [Office of the] Supreme Public Prosecutor on the implementation of their [respective] annual work plans [for the current year] and their work plans for the following year;
4. To hear, consider and approve reports on the annual work plan [for the current year] and the work plan for the following year of the National Assembly; [and]
5. To consider and approve other issues which are considered important and necessary.

Article 10. Extraordinary Session of the National Assembly⁷

The extraordinary session of the National Assembly may be convened between the two ordinary sessions of the National Assembly in order to consider and decide on important and necessary issues upon the determination of the National Assembly Standing Committee or on the recommendation of the President of the State, the Prime Minister or at least one-fourth of the total number of the members of the National Assembly.

⁷

Ibid.

Article 11. Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly Sessions

The sessions of the National Assembly shall be convened only with a quorum of more than one-half of the total number of members of the National Assembly.

The sessions of the National Assembly shall be convened openly. In the event that it deems it necessary, the National Assembly Standing Committee shall decide to convene closed sessions.

Article 12. The Convening of the Sessions of the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee shall convene the sessions of the National Assembly. Documents that shall be considered at such session shall be delivered to the members of the National Assembly no later than seven days prior to the opening of such session.

Article 13. Participants at the Sessions of the National Assembly

Participants at the sessions of the National Assembly are the members of the National Assembly. In addition to the members of the National Assembly, the members of the government, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, representatives of socio-political organisations and representatives from different social strata may be invited [to a session of the National Assembly]. Invited persons may be authorised to participate in the discussions but they have no voting rights.

Article 14. Resolutions of the National Assembly Session

Resolutions of the National Assembly may be voted upon in either open or closed sessions, as decided by the session.

Resolutions of the National Assembly shall be valid only if they are passed by more than one-half of the total number of the members present at the session, except [where the resolution concerns] the election of the President of the State, the [calling of an] election prior to the expiration of the term of the National Assembly [or] the amendment of the Constitution, [in which case the required votes are] as provided in Articles 54, 66 and 97 of the Constitution.

Article 15. Minutes of the Session of the National Assembly

Minutes of each National Assembly session should be taken [; they should be] signed and certified by the Chief of the Secretariat and the Chairman of the National Assembly session.

Chapter 3
Organisational Structure of the National Assembly

Article 16. Organisational Structure of the National Assembly

The National Assembly has the following organisational structure:

- President of the National Assembly;
- Vice-President of the National Assembly;
- Standing Committee of the National Assembly;
- Committees of the National Assembly;
- Members of the National Assembly in the constituencies;
- Members of the National Assembly; [and]
- Cabinet of the National Assembly.

Article 17. Term of Office

The term of office of the President, Vice-President, Standing Committee, committees, members of the National Assembly in the constituencies and the Cabinet of the National Assembly corresponds to the term of the National Assembly.

Chapter 4
The President and Vice-President
of the National Assembly

Article 18. The President of the National Assembly

The President of the National Assembly directs and leads the National Assembly's activities and represents the National Assembly in domestic and international affairs.

Article 19. Rights and Duties of the President of the National Assembly

The President of the National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To preside over the National Assembly's sessions;
2. To direct and monitor the activities of the National Assembly;
3. To keep good order in the National Assembly;
4. To direct and guide the international affairs of the National Assembly;

5. To sign legal documents approved in the National Assembly's sessions;
[and]
6. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided in the regulations and laws.

Article 20. The Vice-President of the National Assembly

The Vice-President of the National Assembly has the duty to assist the President of the National Assembly in carrying out his⁸ work and may be assigned specific tasks by the President of the National Assembly.

If the President of the National Assembly is engaged on other matters, the Vice-President is assigned by the President to act on his behalf.

Article 21. The Seal of the President of the National Assembly

The seal of the President of the National Assembly is a circle. In its centre is the national emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "Lao People's Democratic Republic", and on the bottom edge is "President". To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

Chapter 5

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly

Article 22. Status and Role of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee is the permanent body of the National Assembly. It acts on behalf of the National Assembly between the sessions of the National Assembly.

Article 23. The Structure of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee consists of the President, Vice-President and a number of members. The President and Vice-President of the National Assembly are also the President and Vice-President of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

⁸ The reader should note that the Lao language does not distinguish between genders in pronouns. In this translation, a reference to a gender is a reference to all genders, unless the context requires otherwise. The translators' decision to use the male gender was made in the interests of simplicity and consistency.

Article 24. Rights and Duties of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. To prepare for the National Assembly sessions and to ensure that the National Assembly implements its work plan;
2. To interpret and explain the provisions of the Constitution and the laws;
3. To study and prepare draft laws or draft presidential edicts; [and to] propose draft presidential edicts to the President of the State;
4. To consider and adopt the determination, amendment or abrogation of duty and tax rates;
5. If necessary, to consider and approve the appointment, transfer or removal of the Deputy Prime Minister, any minister or the chairman of ministry-equivalent organisations based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, and then to report [such actions] to the next session of the National Assembly for its consideration and approval;
6. To propose to the President of the State [that the President] consider and approve the granting of amnesties;
7. To monitor and enhance the implementation of the Constitution, laws, socio-economic development plans and State budget, by the executive organs, the people's courts and the offices of the Public Prosecutor between the sessions of the National Assembly;
8. To decide on matters relating to the acquisition and relinquishment of Lao nationality;⁹
9. To appoint or remove the Chairman and Vice-Chairman¹⁰ as well as the permanent members¹¹ of the National Assembly in the constituencies;
10. To appoint or remove the Deputy Director of the Cabinet of the National Assembly and heads of departments of the Cabinet of the National Assembly;
11. To appoint, transfer or remove judges of the people's courts at all levels and of the military courts;
12. To direct and guide the activities of the committees, the members of the National Assembly in the constituencies and the Cabinet of the National Assembly;

⁹ Readers may wish to refer to the Law on Lao Nationality for more information on the acquisition, relinquishment, forfeiture and withdrawal of Lao nationality.

¹⁰ This is a reference to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly offices in the constituencies (see Article 56).

¹¹ The term “permanent member of the National Assembly in the constituencies” refers to a member who has been appointed by the National Assembly Standing Committee to be “in-charge” of matters within the constituency. This term should not be confused with “member of the National Assembly in the constituencies”, which is a position described in Chapter 7 of this law.

13. To examine and solve people's complaints;
14. To issue resolutions, rules, regulations, orders and instructions;
15. To report to the National Assembly session on its activities performed between the sessions of the National Assembly;
16. To establish ad hoc committees in order to consider any issue, when necessary; [and]
17. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided in the laws and regulations.

Article 25. Division of Responsibilities within the National Assembly Standing Committee

A member of the National Assembly Standing Committee may be appointed to be a chairman of one of the committees by a resolution of the National Assembly or by a resolution of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The National Assembly Standing Committee may entrust a Vice-President or one of its members to be on permanent duty to deal with day to day affairs of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 26. Session of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly

The session of the National Assembly Standing Committee is held at least once a month, and is convened by the President of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

A person may be invited to participate in an open session of the National Assembly Standing Committee upon a decision of the National Assembly Standing Committee. Such person may participate in the discussions but does not have the right to vote.

In the event that the President of the National Assembly Standing Committee is engaged on other matters, the session is convened and chaired by the Vice-President of the National Assembly Standing Committee who has been assigned by the President of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The National Assembly Standing Committee session may be convened only with the quorum of at least two-thirds [of the total members].

Article 27. Subjects to be Considered at Sessions of the National Assembly Standing Committee

The subjects to be considered in a session of the National Assembly Standing Committee must be submitted or notified to the members of the National Assembly Standing Committee no later than 2 days before opening of the session.

Article 28. Resolutions of the Session of the National Assembly Standing Committee

The resolutions of the National Assembly Standing Committee shall be valid only if passed by the vote of a majority of the members present at the session.

Article 29. The Seal of the National Assembly Standing Committee

The seal of the National Assembly Standing Committee is a circle. In its centre is the national emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "Lao People's Democratic Republic", and on the bottom edge "The National Assembly Standing Committee". To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

**Chapter 6
The Committees of the National Assembly**

Article 30. Status and Role of the Committees of the National Assembly

The National Assembly's committees are advisory bodies of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee which are established in the opening session of the National Assembly, to assist the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee in overseeing the activities of the executive organs, the people's courts, and the offices of the Public Prosecutor.

Article 31. Rights and Duties of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the National Assembly's Committees

The chairman of each National Assembly committee supervises its work and chairs the committee's meetings. The chairman reports and presents work to the National Assembly Standing Committee and to the session of the National Assembly on behalf of the committee.

The vice-chairmen of each National Assembly committee assist the chairman of that committee in executing his duties and shall be responsible for such tasks as are assigned by the chairman of the committee.

In the event that the chairman of a committee is engaged on other matters, he may assign one of the vice-chairmen to act on his behalf.

Article 32. The National Assembly Committees

The National Assembly committees consist of:

1. The Law Committee;
2. The Economy, Planning and Finance Committee;
3. The Cultural and Social Committee;

4. The Ethnic Affairs Committee;
5. The National Defence and Security Committee; [and]
6. The Foreign Affairs Committee.

When necessary, the National Assembly may establish additional committees based on the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 33. Rights and Duties of the Law Committee

The Law Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. To examine draft laws, draft presidential edicts, draft decrees and drafts of other legal documents for submission to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
2. To study and interpret¹² the Constitution and laws;
3. To examine cases of suspension, abrogation or amendment of laws;
4. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the Constitution and laws by the executive organs, the people's courts and the offices of the Public Prosecutor;
5. To propose issues and measures pertaining to the laws to the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration; [and]
6. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the President of the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 34. The Economy, Planning and Finance Committee

The Economy, Planning and Finance Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. To examine and comment on draft laws, draft presidential edicts, draft decrees and draft legal documents in the economic, planning and finance areas which the government or other organisations have submitted to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
2. To examine and comment on the draft socio-economic development plan and the draft of the State budget;
3. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the Constitution and laws in the economic, planning and financial sectors;

¹² The term “study and interpret” is used in the sense that the Law Committee “studies” the Constitution and the laws to assist the National Assembly Standing Committee in the “interpretation” of the Constitution and such laws.

4. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget in the economic, planning and financial sectors;
5. To propose issues and measures relating to the economic, planning and financial sectors to the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration; [and]
6. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the President of the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 35. Rights and Duties of the Cultural and Social Committee

The Cultural and Social Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. To examine and comment on draft laws, draft presidential edicts, draft decrees and draft legal documents in the cultural and social areas which the government or other organisations have submitted to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
2. To examine and comment on the draft socio-economic development plan and the draft of the State budget in the cultural and social sectors;
3. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the Constitution and laws in the cultural and social sectors;
4. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget in the cultural and social sectors;
5. To propose issues and measures relating to the cultural and social sectors to the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration; [and]
6. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the President of the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 36. Rights and duties of the Ethnic Affairs Committee

The Ethnic Affairs Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. To examine and comment on draft laws, draft presidential edicts, draft decrees and draft legal documents pertaining to ethnic affairs which the government or other organisations have submitted to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
2. To examine and comment on the draft socio-economic development plan and the draft of the State budget in the ethnic and the rural development sectors;
3. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the Constitution and laws in the ethnic and the rural development sectors;

4. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget in the ethnic and the rural development sectors;
5. To propose issues and measures relating to the ethnic sector to the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration; [and]
6. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the President of the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 37. Rights and Duties of the National Defence and Security Committee

The National Defence and Security Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. To examine and comment on the draft laws, draft presidential edicts, draft decrees and other draft legal documents pertaining to matters of national defence and security which the government or other organisations have submitted to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
2. To examine and comment on the draft socio-economic development plan and the State budget in the national defence and security sectors;
3. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the Constitution and laws in the national defence and security sectors;
4. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget in the national defence and security sectors;
5. To propose issues and measures relating to national defence and security to the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration; [and]
6. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the President of the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 38. Rights and Duties of the Foreign Affairs Committee

The Foreign Affairs Committee has the following rights and duties:

1. To examine and comment on draft laws, draft presidential edicts, draft decrees, draft conventions, drafts of important [international] agreements and other draft legal documents pertaining to foreign affairs which the government or other organisations have submitted to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
2. To examine and comment on the draft socio-economic development plan and the State budget pertaining to foreign affairs activities;

3. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the Constitution and laws as they pertain to foreign affairs,
4. To oversee and enhance the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget pertaining to foreign affairs, and to oversee international relations and cooperation;
5. To study issues relating to the ratification of or [secession from] conventions and agreements signed with foreign countries, through co-ordination with other relevant committees, in order to make recommendations to the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration;
6. To propose issues and measures relating to foreign affairs to the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration; [and]
7. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as assigned by the President of the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 39. Working System of the Committees

The National Assembly committees work on the basis of democratic centralism, [which principle manifests itself through the following:] a balance between collective and individual responsibility; discussions in meetings and decision making by majority votes; the division of work even while responsibility rests upon individuals; work in accordance with plans, monitoring, keeping records, drawing lessons learnt and reporting; requests for guidance from the National Assembly Standing Committee; coordination among various National Assembly committees, and with the Party organisations, State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations and concerned sectors; and collaboration with foreign countries, and international organisations upon approval of the National Assembly Standing Committee.¹³

Article 40. The Plenary Meetings of the National Assembly Committees

The plenary meetings of the National Assembly committees are held at least once a year, before the ordinary sessions of the National Assembly.

When deemed necessary, a plenary meeting of a committee may take place at any time or may take place jointly with other committees, or [the committee] may invite other relevant persons to such meeting.

Article 41. The Seal of the National Assembly Committees

The National Assembly committees have their own circular seal. In its centre is the National emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "National

¹³ For readability, the punctuation in this sentence has been modified.

Assembly", and on the bottom edge is the name of the committee. To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

Chapter 7

Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

Article 42. The Members of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

The “members of the National Assembly in the constituencies”¹⁴ [refers to] groups of members [who are advisors to] the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee in overseeing the implementation of the Constitution, laws, socio-economic development plan and the State budget in their constituencies.

The members of the National Assembly in a constituency consist of all the members of the National Assembly from that constituency. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the permanent member are appointed and removed by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The members of the National Assembly in the constituencies have a similar term as the term of the National Assembly.

Article 43. Rights and Duties of the Members of the National Assembly [in the Constituencies]

In their constituencies, the members of the National Assembly in the constituencies have the following rights and duties:

1. To disseminate the Party’s policies, the laws and regulations of the State and the resolutions of the National Assembly;
2. To attend to and study, give comments on and enhance the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the State budget;
3. To oversee the implementation of the Constitution and laws, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan;
4. To direct, [and] guide the activities of the offices of the National Assembly in the constituencies;
5. To encourage the multi-ethnic people to take part in the protection and development of the country;
6. To receive complaints or requests from the people in order to discuss them with the relevant bodies in order to arrive at a fair settlement;
7. To report on their activities to the National Assembly Standing Committee on a regular basis;
8. To cooperate and coordinate with other departments and organisations in executing their duties and to invite relevant sectors to provide clarification on specific issues;

¹⁴

The quotation marks have been added and are not in the original text.

9. To participate in meetings and important ceremonies of the Party's organisations, State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organisations and other organisations; [and]
10. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided in the laws and regulations.

Article 44. Seal of the Members of the National Assembly

The members of the National Assembly in the constituencies have their own circular seal. In its centre is the national emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "National Assembly" and on the bottom edge "Members of the National Assembly in Constituency Number ___ in _____ province". To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

**Chapter 8
Members of the National Assembly**

Article 45. Members of the National Assembly

Members of the National Assembly are the representatives of the will and aspirations of the multi-ethnic people. They are elected by the Lao citizens pursuant to the principles contained in the Law on Election of the Members of the National Assembly.

Article 46. The Term of Office of the Members of the National Assembly

The term of office of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies and the Cabinet of the National Assembly corresponds to the term of the National Assembly.

In the event that there is an election of a replacement member of the National Assembly [to replace a previous member of the National Assembly], the term of the replacement member begins from the session immediately following the election and lasts until the opening session of the new legislature.

Article 47. Rights and Duties of the Members of the National Assembly

Members of the National Assembly have the following rights and duties:

1. To study, comprehend, and implement the Party's policies, the laws and regulations of the State and the resolutions of the National Assembly;
2. To disseminate the Party's policies, the laws and regulations of the State, and the resolutions of the National Assembly; [and to] encourage the people from [different social] strata and ethnic groups to take part in the implementation of the Party's policies, the laws and regulations of the State, the management of the State and the management of socio-economic [matters];

3. To attend the National Assembly sessions, give opinions and vote on all issues submitted to the National Assembly for discussion or decision;
When necessary, a member of the National Assembly who cannot attend a session must request permission from the National Assembly Standing Committee the day before such session of the National Assembly is scheduled to open;
4. To participate in the work of promoting and developing the grassroots, and in studying the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan in their constituency, to be close to the people and under their monitoring, to convey the people's opinions and aspirations to the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee;
5. To receive complaints or requests from the people in order to discuss them with the relevant bodies in order to arrive at a fair settlement;
6. To interpellate the Prime Minister or members of the government, the President of the People's Court, and the Supreme Public Prosecutor in the National Assembly session;
7. To report to the people on their activities in their constituencies at least twice a year;
8. To report on their activities to the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees and the members of the National Assembly in their constituencies;
9. To participate in meetings and important ceremonies of the Party's organisations, State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction and the mass organisations in their constituencies; [and]
10. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided in the laws and the regulations of the National Assembly.

Article 48. Members of the National Assembly - Appointment to Committees and Holding Other Posts

Each member of the National Assembly is appointed to one committee of the National Assembly. The members of the National Assembly can continue to hold other positions.

Article 49. Expiry of the Term of Members of the National Assembly

The term of a member of the National Assembly shall expire upon:

1. Such member's death;
2. Such member's resignation;
3. Such member's dismissal from the position of member of the National Assembly; [or]
4. Expiry of the term of office.

Article 50. Entitlements of Members of the National Assembly

The National Assembly members shall receive special entitlements to ensure the accomplishment of their duties.

Article 51. Immunities of Members of the National Assembly

Members of the National Assembly shall not be arrested, detained or prosecuted in a criminal court without the approval of the National Assembly or National Assembly Standing Committee.

In the event that it is necessary to arrest a member of the National Assembly as a result of a manifest offence, or due to the urgency of the matter, the organisation which has detained the member of the National Assembly must immediately report to the National Assembly or to National Assembly Standing Committee in order to obtain instructions regarding further action [or prosecution.] Investigations shall not [be conducted in such a manner as to] prevent a prosecuted member from attending National Assembly sessions.

**Chapter 9
The Cabinet of the National Assembly**

Article 52. Status and Role of the National Assembly Cabinet

The Cabinet of the National Assembly is an advisory office of the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee[; it has the] role to study, summarize and compile [information], to be responsible for administrative matters, planning and finance, [and] to facilitate the activities of the Standing Committee, the Committees, and the members of the National Assembly.

Article 53. Rights and Duties of the Cabinet of the National Assembly

The Cabinet of the National Assembly has the following rights and duties:

1. To study, summarize and compile [information on] all aspects of the implementation of the Constitution and laws, the socio-economic development plan and the State budget plan in order to report to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
2. To establish favourable conditions for the National Assembly Standing Committee, the committees and the members of the National Assembly in performing their duties;
3. To organize, manage, maintain and implement the entitlements of officials, and civil servants attached to the Cabinet of the National Assembly;
4. To prepare and provide services for the sessions of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee and the National Assembly Committees;

5. To prepare plans and manage the budget-spending, materials and assets of the National Assembly;
6. To handle complaints, requests and nationality problems in order to propose [dispositions thereof] to the National Assembly Standing Committee;
7. To be responsible for order in the premises of the National Assembly;
8. To direct, monitor, control and support the activities of the National Assembly offices in the constituencies;
9. To be responsible for the Information Centre and the National Assembly library;
10. To liaise and coordinate with the National Assembly committees, the Office of the Party Central Committee, the Office of the President, the Office of the Prime Minister and with other concerned organisations;
11. To liaise with foreign countries and international organisations as approved by the National Assembly Standing Committee; [and]
12. To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as are assigned by the President of the National Assembly or the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 54. Structure of the Cabinet of the National Assembly

The structure of the Cabinet of the National Assembly is determined by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 55. Seal of the Cabinet of the National Assembly

The Cabinet of the National Assembly has its own circular seal. In its centre is the National emblem. The inscription on the top edge is "National Assembly" and on the bottom edge "Cabinet". To separate the [two] inscriptions, five-cornered stars are inserted.

Article 56. The Offices of the National Assembly in the Constituencies

Each constituency has a National Assembly office which is an advisory office to the members of the National Assembly in the constituency and to the Cabinet of the National Assembly. It has the duty to facilitate the work of the members of the National Assembly.

Article 57. Structure, Rights and Duties of National Assembly Offices in the Constituencies

The structure, rights and duties of the offices of the National Assembly in the constituencies are determined by the Cabinet of the National Assembly.

Chapter 10

Proposal and Consideration of Draft Laws

Article 58. Proposal for Developing or Amending Laws

Before preparing a new draft law or amending an existing law, the organisations which have the right to propose draft laws, as stipulated in the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, must make a proposal to the National Assembly Standing Committee elaborating the purpose and reasons for drafting or amending such law.

The National Assembly Standing Committee must give an answer in writing to such proposal no later than fifteen days from the day of receiving the proposal.

Article 59. Submission of a Draft Law to the National Assembly Standing Committee

The organisation which has already developed or amended a law must submit such draft law to the National Assembly Standing Committee to consider no later than sixty days prior to the opening of the session of the National Assembly.

Article 60. Examination of a Draft Law

The National Assembly Standing Committee shall submit a draft law to the Law Committee and other concerned committees to make a detailed study and report the results of the study to the National Assembly Standing Committee.

The National Assembly Standing Committee is the authority that decides whether to submit the draft law for public consultation before proposing such law to the session of the National Assembly for consideration and approval.

Article 61. Submission of a Draft Law to the National Assembly

The National Assembly Standing Committee assigns the Chairman of the Law Committee of the National Assembly or the representative of the organisation which developed the draft law to submit the draft law to the session of the National Assembly.

Chapter 11

Final Provisions

Article 62. Implementation

The National Assembly Standing Committee shall implement this law.

Article 63. Entry into Force

This law shall enter into force on the date of the promulgating decree issued by the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

This law replaces the Law on National Assembly No. 005/NA dated 25 February, 1993. Provisions or regulations which contradict this law are null and void.

Vientiane, 6 May 2003
President of the National Assembly

[Seal and Signature]

Samane VIYAKHET